# THE INDEPENDENT



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# Clinton's ratings rise as Baghdad smoulders and Washington ignites

By Andrew Marshall AND MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

THE SHAME of impeachment now a reality, President Bill Clinton was still riding high yesterday, celebrating renewed public approval at home and claiming victory over Iraq abroad. Defying the odds yet again. America's master of survival saw his poll rating rise and his name again in lights as Time magazine's "man of the year".

With a trial in the Senate likely early in the new year, however. and fears that calls for his resignation might multiply, any rejoicing seemed premature, and Mr Clinton – only the second US President to be impeached kept a low profile after a frenetic week during which he had been at the centre of two major crises: impeachment and Iraq.

He attended church with his daughter, Chelsea, but without the First Lady and made no response to bands of rival heckchurch steps.

His personal sense of vindication at the Time magazine award might also have been soured by his having to share the honour with the man who had brought about his humiliation in the Lewinsky affair: the independent prosecutor, Ken-

Word emerging from the have on their fortunes White House suggested a Pres ident more contrite and hesitant than the public statements of the previous day had indicated. His determination to remain at his post "until the last hour of the last day of my term" was reportedly tempered by private words of remorse for the predicament that his behaviour had presented to Democrats in Cangress. They had raced to White House immediately after the vote in a bizarre procession of buses and cars to express their support and surrounded him on the White House lawn for his statement.

The Republicans, who had fought so long to make Mr Clinton feel his own pain for the Lewinsky affair, appeared to be retreating just a little from their refusal to compromise. Senior senators said yesterday that a Senate trial – which is now required under the constitution – could last just a few Beeks. Some had earlier forest protracted and sordid proceedings that could paralyse the administration for months.

vincible to the Gulf as part of a

new strategy to keep Saddam

Hussein firmly "in his cage".

Tony Blair announced yesterday.

hat Britain and the United

states were ready to launch

more bombing raids on Iraq.

"Our forces will remain ready

to strike if necessary, if he again

poses a threat to his neighbours

or develops weapons of mass

British ministers claimed

the four-day Operation Desert

Fox, which was called off late on

Saturday, had set back Presi-

dent Saddam's military capa-

bilities by at least a year.

destruction," he said.

The Prime Minister warned

BRITAIN IS sending HMS In- BY ANDREW GRICE



The new issue of "Time" featuring President Bill

A short trial could be part of hind the scenes. Its desire to save Mr Clinton the indignity of a trial at all, however, is complicated by the insistence of the Senate Majority leader, Trent

Mr Clinton's uncanny ability lers shouting outside the to escape even the tightest corners could still affect the outcome, though. An NBC poll taken immediately after the impeachment votes showed that public support for the President had actually increased by four points - from 68 to 72 per cent. And some Republicans expressed concern about the effect an unpopular trial could

"I do think that the leader ship has to do a hard count." said Republican Senator Orrin Hatch, "to determine whether to move ahead with a trial." And another Republican, Mitch Mc-Connell, said that there was nothing that stipulated all the evidence had to be heard in public. The more salacious testimony, he indicated, could be given in camera. "This will not be a spectacle," he said, "It will not demean the Senate."

emerged remarkably intact from the impeachment debate, his enemy across the other side of the world, Saddam Hussein, also proclaimed victory. After four days of air strikes. Britain and America ended their campaign on Saturday night with simultaneous announcements by Tony Blair

and Mr Clinton. President Saddam lauded his countrymen in a speech yesterday, saying that they had defeated Britain and America. "You were up to the level that



Clinton as 'man of the year'

the compromise for which the White House is now striving be-Lott, that he will make no deals.

Even as President Clinton

your leadership and your broth-

President Saddam remained in

power. "Just because we can't

get in the cage and strike him

down, it doesn't mean we

should leave the cage un-

touched and the bars too frag-

ile to hold him. What we have

done is put him back firmly in

the cage. He is weaker and

therefore the region is

further operations in the world's

troublespots. Mr Blair detected

"the first stirrings of a new glob-al reality" in which force was

used to maintain peace. "The

sooner and quicker you act, the

easier it is to act and the less

Hinting at the mounting of



President Bill Clinton and his daughter, Chelsea, leaving the United Foundry Methodist Church in Washington after the service yesterday

er and comrade Saddam Hussein had hoped you would be ... so God rewarded you and delighted your hearts with the crown of victory," he said in a taped address.

"God wanted this to be an honour and glory for you ... and shame and humiliation ... to those who carried it, the enemies of God and humanity."

But Iraq says thousands infrastructure and to human ed Nations. "I am told the ca-

have been killed or wounded. "There has been enormous damage, mainly to the civilian life," said Nizar Hamdoon, Iraq's ambassador to the Unit-

sualties are in thousands, in terms of people who were killed or wounded, but we don't have

Iraq."You cannot bomb people

into submission; it tends to make

them defiant. I think there is a

considerable risk this will hap-

pen, not just in Iraq but across

the Islamic world." he told

The Opposition, which sup-

ported Operation Desert Fox

last week, cast doubt over Mr

Blair's actions last night, call-

ing on him to spell out his fu-

ture strategy. "We must not now

allow a policy vacuum to de-

velop," said Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary.

remain on "high alert" until

HMS Invincible arrives in the

Guif next month. George

Robertson, the Secretary of

RAF Tornadoes in Kuwait will

BBC1's Breakfast With Frost.

US set for the trial of the century ■ The presidents who were impeached page 4 ■ Americans' sympathy for Clinton page 5 Allies plot downfall of Saddam

Blair sends carrier to the Gulf

pense and diplomacy," he said.

at criticism that President Bill

Clinton had attacked Iraq in an

attempt to prevent his im-

peachment, and suggestions

that he was "Clinton's poodle".

"I would never, ever commit

British servicemen and women

unless I thought it necessary."

Labour defence secretary, warned that Mr Blair's actions

had done him "no good", and

had enormously weakened

Britain's influence in Russia

and China, the Middle East

General Sir Peter de la Bil-

lière, who commanded Britain's

forces in the 1990-91 Gulf War.

warned that the latest aerial at-

tacks would strengthen Presi-

and European Union.

But Lord Healey, the former

The Prime Minister hit back

any final figures." He did not say how many of the casualties were military and how many

Mr Clinton laid out the elements of a containment strategy towards Iraq on Saturday night, which was repeated by Mr Blair yesterday. It involves the continuing threat of military strikes, the maintenance of sanctions and a continued effort to prevent Iraq from developing weapons of mass destruction. Discussions will begin this week in New York to see if the UN special commission on Iraqi weapons can be reconstituted. The US will not hesitate to take military action if Iraq threatens its neighbours or is seen to be

developing weapons of mass de-

away, we remain vigilant." The

"floating fortress" can mount air

and land attacks, and carries up

to 24 aircraft - usually a mix of

Sea Harrier FA2 fighters, RAF

Harrier GR7 bombers and Sea

King helicopters. It has a crew

ident Saddam forms the first

plank in a four-point plan out-

lined by Mr Blair yesterday.

The second is to make the trade

sanctions against Iraq more rig-

orous-including reinforced op-

erations in the Gulf to intercept

The Prime Minister called

for a "more effective arrange-

ment" than the deal allowing

President Saddam to sell oil to

suspect traffic.

This "containment" of Pres-

of 1,200 men and women.

struction, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said yesterday. "We reserve the right to use force again."

Both Mr Blair and Mr Clinton laid a heavy emphasis on preparing the ground for life after Saddam, Mr Clinton appeared to hint that some other group was waiting in the wings We will stand ready to help a new leadership in Baghdad that abides by its international commitments and respects the rights of its own people," he said late on Saturday. "We hope it will return Iraq to its rightful place

in the community of nations." The last night of strikes focused on the Republican Guard, the elite units most loval to President Saddam.

position reported that before have usually come to nothing. Will you give Mary

diers and rebels. The Iraqi op- such reports and such uprisings

the US and Britain mounted air

strikes, an uprising was under

way by the Shiite community of

southern Iraq, but in the past

There were unsubstantiated

rumours in Washington of mil-

itary activity in southern Iraq,

including clashes between sol-



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You can help keep Mary, and thousands of vulnerable people like her, safe and warm over Christmas. With £25 from you, Crisis can provide a warm bed, hot meals, clean clothes and someone to talk to at one of our shelters.

As the days count down to Christmas, nearly 10,000 homeless people are counting on Crisis. We're counting on you. Our service depends on public donations, So please send your £25 today - in time to help us buy the bedding, food and clothes we need to bring Mary

#### criticism that the military costly it is in terms of life, exstrikes were pointless because

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Mr Blair sought to head off

Toddler missing Police search for a girl aged two after mother is found stabbed to death Home P9

kerble frustration Victim's brother speaks out over suspects' trial Home P10

Expatriate lecturers find an unfair world in Italy's universities Foreign P14

stronger.

Chinese justice One dissident goes to trial as another is exiled Foreign P15

**Business P16** 

insurers' £2.7bn deal Australian insurance group AMP clinches deal to buy NPI

Andreas Whittam Smith **Gunners' victory** Why Britain and Europe Arsenal strike winning will never agree about form to beat Leeds 3-1 the conflict in Iraq Sport P28 Comment P4

#### INSIDE THE REVIEW Steve Richards

John Walsh Shopping for Barbie and Do we have the bombing Baghdad politicians we deserve? Comment P3 Comment P5

Under holy orders A mother remembers the day her daughter became a nun Features P8

King of comedy Johnny Vegas gets his own television show Arts P9

Dancing to DNA Darwin and the DJs the most unlikely mix in clubland Network P11



# PAGE 16

#### dent Saddam's position in big signal: we are not going was less susceptible to poor performance by the Iraqi authorities or manipulation by the President for his own ends.

Part three is a diplomatic offensive to bring about "stability" in relations between Iraq and the international community. British ministers, led by Mr Blair and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, will hold urgent talks with Middle East and EU states and UN Security Council members.

Finally, the Prime Minister called for an "effective inspection and monitoring regime". But he admitted that the Unscom inspection team could not return for the same "cat and mouse" game and the same recurring crises. "We would need a new State for Defence, said: "It is a buy food and medicines, so it and better regime," he said.

#### Countdown to Christmas Yes, I'll keep homeless people warm:

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# 'You did lie and obstructed justice'

## POLITICAL CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

WHEN - as now looks likely - By MARY DEJEVSKY President Bill Clinton stands trial in the Senate, it is the two were approved by the House of Representatives on Saturday that will constitute the indictment. For him to be removed from office, the 100 Senators who will make up the jury must be convinced that the charges are proved, and that they are sufficiently severe to warrant Lawyers for Mr Clinton have maintained that they are not worthy of conviction on either

The first Article accuses Mr Clinton of providing "perjurious, false and misleading testimomy" to a grand jury on four themes, including the nature of his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. The second accuses him of trying to obstruct the course of justice in seven areas. including encouraging Ms Lewinsky to sign a false affidavit denying a sexual rela-tionship with him, trying to hide evidence of their relationship (by having his presents concealed; and misleading members of his staff about his relationship in the expectation that they would unwittingly give false evidence to the grand

jury in the Lewinsky case. What these charges do not encompass is the biggest and most memorable "whopper" Mr Clinton told: his finger-wagging January statement for the cameras when he insisted: "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Ms Lewinsky." Lying so blatantly to the electorate might be thought a matter for resignation, but it is not part of the indictment

in Washington

garded as "impeachable". This would be one for the electorate to judge, not for the House or

The two articles of impeachment are more technical, and relate exclusively either to evidence that Mr Clinton gave under oath or to events that could relate specifically to the "political capital punishment". realm of legality - chiefly, the lawsuit brought by Paula Jones.

Anyone who has viewed Mr Clinton's grand jury testimony, which was shown on nationwide television in September, or the video-clips from his testimony in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit, and compared them with the sworn testimony of Ms Lewinsky and others recorded by the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, can be in little doubt that Mr Clinton was less than truthful. One question for the "jury" will be whether he crossed the line from reticence to perjury.

As time has gone by, his lawyers have become increasingly frank about the extent of his culpability. Most recently, Gregory Craig, the White House special counsel, admitted that his replies were "evasive, incomplete, misleading, even maddening", but "not

The chief White House counsel, Charles Ruff, came close to admitting that a jury might be inclined to convict him of perjury, when he said that "reasonable people" might conclude that he had lied under oath though Mr Ruff tried to prove that he had not).

The Clinton lawyers' case is that Mr Clinton never told a impeachable.

straight lie under oath. Mr Clinton himself said that he had been "not particularly helpful" and "blamed" the prosecutors for not being persistent enough and transcripts show, however, that the prosecutors did persist, but Mr Clinton persisted too in being vague and forgetful. This makes the job of the "pros-

it was intended to do). During the House judiciary committee hearings and the full House debate, senior Democrats challenged the Republi-cans to produce examples of any sentence by Mr Clinton that was a lie. The lawyers among them argued that without words that were demonstrably false, the perjury charges

The further problem for the "prosecution" is whether the instances of lies and obstruction of justice, even if they can be proved beyond "reasonable" doubt, are serious enough to qualify as the "high crimes and misdemeanours" the Constitution defines as impeachable.

The view of Democrats and Mr Clinton's lawyers is that they do not, because they stem initially from an attempt to cover up an adulterous affair which was personal and private.

The Republican argument is that the effect would have been to deprive Paula Jones of her right to a fair hearing of her sexual harassment case, so they have judicial significance. They argue additionally that the oath of office requires the President, as the country's chief law officer, to uphold the law and any breach of the law is therefore a violation of his oath - and



Henry Hyde, right, Chair of the House judiciary committee gives the articles of impeachment to Gary Sisco, Secretary of the Senate AP

### THE ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT

These are edited texts of the and in violation of his constitwo articles of impeachment voted against President Bill Clinton by the House of Representatives on Saturday:

In his conduct while President ation, impeding the adminisof the United States, William Jefferson Clinton, in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution [of the US], oath, [he] willfully provided

YESTERDAY

tutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has willfully corrupted and manipulated the judicial process of the United States for his personal gain and exonertration of justice, in that:

On 17 August 1998, William Jefferson Clinton swore to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth before a Federal grand jury of the United States. Contrary to that

perjurious, false and misleading testimony to the grand jury concerning one or more of the following: (1) the nature and details of his relationship with a subordinate Government employee; (2) prior per-jurious, false and misleading testimony he gave in a Federal civil rights action brought against him; (3) prior false and misleading statements he allowed his attorney to make to a Federal judge in that civil rights action: and (4) his cor-

rupt efforts to influence the

impede the discovery of evidence in that civil rights action. In doing this, [he] has undermined the integrity of his office, brought disrepute on the Presidency, betrayed his trust as President, and acted in a manner subversive of the

In his conduct ... [he] has prevented, obstructed and im-

justice, and has to that end en-

rule of law and justice...

gaged personally and through his subordinates and agents, in a course of conduct or scheme designed to delay impede, cover up and conceal the existence of evidence and testimony related to a Federal civil rights action brought against him in a duly instituted judicial proceeding...

[He]... warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of peded the administration of honour, trust or profit under

# BRITAIN TODAY Noon today **FORECAST**

eneral situation: A very cold and frosty start. The south-east will have sunny sells, but rain will move across towards evening. Northern England. Wales and such-west England will have a spell of rain with snow for a time over the more orthern hills. Northern treland will start wer and windy, the rain clearing to sunniels and scattered showers. Western coasts of Scotland will have rain, clearing lowers. Elsewhere in Scotland there will be some sleet and snow, turning to rain towars.

W & NW England, Wates, Cent N England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Rain on breaking out and spreading east. Some snow for a time over the hills. A fresh outh to south-west wind. Max temp 3-8C (37-43F).

I Ireland: Wet and windy with sleet and snow on the hills, clearing to sunshine nd showers. A fresh south-west wind. Max temp 4-6C (39-43F).

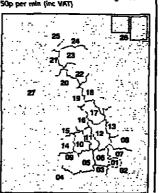
Londion: A41 Finchley Rd. From Swiss Cottage to Fortuna Green. Major works at Finchley Rd Gyratory. Until 31st December. Cambridgeshire A1 between Alconbury nghamshire: M40 between junctions 1a & 3 (Wycombe East). Three nerow both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in proc. Until 1st January 1999.
Intstol: M5 J18-19. Major Roedworks on wormouth Bridge. Until 1st January 2001.
ancashtre: M5 Between J27 Stantish and 28 Layland. Roadworks; contraflow and a

Somph speed limit either side of Chemook Fichard Services. Until 15th February 1999. West Yorkshire: Mr Between J42 Lothnouse Interchange (M62) and J43 Stourion. Roadworks and a 50mph speed limit. Until 31st December 1998. Cumbria: M6 J37 Kendal. Roadworks, ear-rageway reducest to 2 lames both ways with a 50mph speed limit; I mile south of the Junc-tion. Until 18th January 1999. AA Roadwords Call 9335 A01/277 for the AA Roadwatch: Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic name. LIGHTING UP

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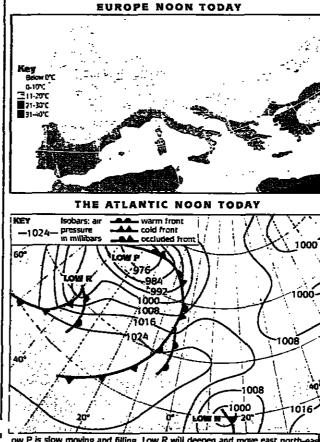


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RAIN OR SHINE...

THE CHANCES of a white Christmas melted away yesterday as weather experts predicted one of the mildest festive seasons on record. Most of England and Wales will have warm weather and even Scotland will escape the big freeze. The bookmaker William Hill is offering odds of six to one on Christmas Day 1998 being the warmest of the century, exceeding the 15.6C (60.1F) recorded in Devon in 1920.



THE WORLD

Prague Consbec Registralis Ribacies Rio de Jun Pityada Rhone San Fran Sentiago Social Septiminal Registralis Regis

# The lie that sunk Clinton



"I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Ms Lewinsky" 26 January 1998



"Indeed, I did have a relationship with Ms Lewinsky that was not appropriate. In fact, it was wrong" 17 August 1998

# Oh Wee! What can I get for Lindsey?

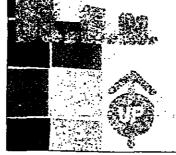


CHER - BELIEVE

Do you believe in life after love: They does, and who the number one single of the year and an album full of songs with the came great artifuld. Take "Viring Frough", the next single, for example it's an ambern just waiting in happen. For dancethour dress exercishers with base in gree it to believe it.



INTERNATIONAL VELVET - CATATONIA Well this as quite simply, the best British rock album of the year from exercises favourite new discovery - the very hellium, very Welsh Cataronia. Cervi Mathews has a tunce to die for and the songs are under everyones skin. "Viulder & Sculh". "Pued Rage". "Strange



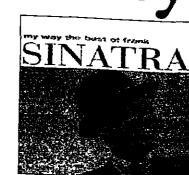
Critics have been saying this is the album of the year, so there we disappointed faces in Christians morning if Sama can get Up down r changes. A return to the land of gangeous songs found on omatic For The People, norable the labulous "Daysleeper" and their

Your lust minute friend

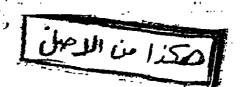


ALANIS MORISSETTE

More people hought Alanis Morissenes debut album that any other female artist in history - she certainly struck a chord. She made such an impact because her songs deal with real personal emonous, so if I be a log bit with every happy family on Christian marriang? Includes the hogs bit "Thank U".



MY WAY - THE BEST OF FRANK SINATRA 1998 will go down as the veri the world has its greatest enging talent, making this a program git this University. All of Frank's disasts on one fluid in the law World of courses. New York, New York, Security In The Knife and word under Me Man, I time It will be Mack The Knife and word coupled with talaulous land let with new devictions and pressureds introduced photos.



# Jury on the Hill takes up positions for trial of the century

THE SENATE

AFTER A five-day helter-skelter BY MARY DEJEVSKY of events that had pushed and jostled and raced each other into the news, political Washington was finally able to sit back yesterday, take a breath and consider the significance of what had happened.

The President had been impeached for only the second time in US history. The Democrats were united (almost) in defiant support of their leader, carried the two approved artithe Republicans were fending off meltdown for the second time as many months. The litical establishment was bitterly divided, and so was the

Even as Washington tried to now obliged to hold a trial. relax, however, two competing developments were already in train. The methodical constitutional process was taking its course, preparing the way for the support of a crowd of House the Senate trial that is the next Democrats and insist that he and final stage of Mr Clinton's would work "to the last hour of disgrace. And from the White the last day of my term". He House came the sounds of anx- was flanked by his Vice-Presiious wheeler-dealing in a last- dent, the still-wooden Al Gore, ch attempt to fend off the his almost cadaverously lean

in Washington

from office of the country's 42nd President, Bill Clinton. Within an hour of Saturday's

impeachment votes, the House of Representatives had appointed nine managers to oversee the charges against Mr Clinton, and they had physically cles of impeachment across the Capitol Rotunda to the Senate. The House thus completed its role in the impeachment of the President. According to the constitution, the Senate is

Less than two hours later, Mr Clinton, arm in arm with his wife, Hillary, appeared in the White House rose garden to hail



the washed and brushed House minority leader, Dick Gephardt, an ensemble of solidarity that may or may not stand by him in the weeks to come.

Mrs Clinton, wearing an understated black trousersuit, had on her lapel the brooch that she had worn for her television interview back in January, when she had defended her husband and blamed a "vast right-wing conspiracy" for his

The golden eagle, holding a pearl in its talons, had become a tacit symbol among Democratic women of their support of the President. For Mrs Clinton to wear it on Saturday was to state that the Clintons were fighting on.

Mr Clinton indicated one direction of that fight, when he said that he hoped for a "constitutional and fair means of resolving this matter in a prompt manner". In other words, he was looking for a deal. The White House is said to have put out feelers across the political esany solution that would stave off Clinton would probably survive. a Senate trial

In the three weeks before his impeachment at the bands of a fractious and combative House, the White House had started to sue for peace. They had spoken of compromise and deals, and on the day before the vote, Mrs Clinton - in a rare recent intervention - had called for reconciliation.

The thrust of the Democrats' arguments, such as they were in the two-day House debate, also tended towards compromise, culminating in Mr Gephardt's eloquent, but frustrated plea for censure, rather than impeachment, in the last minutes of the debate.

In the rose garden, too, there was talk of olive branches and healing. Such pleas were not the strongest suit for the Democrats to present in the debate, but they might have a chance.

Some Republicans are believed to have voted for imknowledge it was an indictment

The Democrats warned them that a vote for impeachment should not be treated as a warning shot across Mr Clinton's

There is, however, a question about how many Republicans would have voted for impeachment if their majority in the Senate were greater than its current 10, or if they had believed that they were voting to convict rather than charge.

Misgivings among Republicans about removing Mr Clinton from office may yet open the way for a motion of censure or for a solution that has become known as "censure-plus" - that would incorporate a stiff fine, running into millions of dollars. and an understanding that Mr Clinton could face criminal charges on similar counts (perjury and obstruction of justice) once he leaves office.

The assumption in Wash-

and would countenance a "plea-bargain" of the sort so common in American courts.

Among the intermediaries in a poetic twist - is believed to be the man whom Mr Clinton defeated for the presidency in 1992: the former Republican Vice-President and former Senator, Bob Dole, who set out a five-point compromise two weeks ago and has the ear of senior Senators.

The Senate Majority leader, Trent Lott, however, stated categorically on the eve of the House dehate that he would not stand for anything less than a trial "No deal-making," he said.

The right wing of the Republican Party would agree. and this has led some to believe that a trial is inevitable. The only question then would be its duration, and the outcome.

The Senate convenes for its new session on 6 January. A trial could commence as early ington - which may not, of as 11 January, but would probpeachment secure in the course, be correct - is that the ably take place later. One fore- is why they will be investing so Senate has no appetite for re- cast is that it could be as short much effort over the holiday

could last several months, depending on whether witnesses are called, and how many.

Proceedings would be televised, but not the deliberations of the Senators - who may ask written questions but not speak during the trial.

A two-thirds majority of the 100-strong Senate is needed for conviction, which would require 12 Democrats to vote with the 55 Republicans. Currently, that scale of defections looks unlikely. But Senators are regarded as wilful and quirky; at least two - Robert Byrd and Pat Moynihan - are sticklers for the Constitution and the law, and might change

sides, taking others with them. If, as in the House, the arguments move towards the high principles of a guardian of the law who lies under oath and away from "what did he touch and when did he touch it?", any vote could be closer than the White House would like. Which

#### **WHAT** NEXT FOR CLINTON?

. Resignation As the import of the

Mr Clinton loses the support of Congressional Democrats and the country and is persuaded, despite himself, to resign

2. Forced Out A Senate trial is held. Sufficient Democrat Senators are

convinced of the gravity of the President's conduct and

harmfulness

for the country and provide the two-thirds majority necessary to convict. The President is forced out and replaced by Al Gore. 3. Tried but Aquitted A Senate trial is held. Mr Clinton's lawyers satisfy the Democrats that the offences cannot be proved.

Their vote holds solid and Mr Clinton is acquitted: he remains in office. Like Andrew Johnson in 1868, he has been impeached, but not removed. He claims

victory. 4. The Lame Duck White House strikes a deal between now and the new Congressional session in

January. The Senate convenes and immediately adioums. accepting something

to a presidential plea-bargain entailing a

strong censure. perhaps a fine, but no further punishment. Mr Clinton is wounded, but not slain. 5. Constitutional **Fisticuffs** 

The White House fights on constitutional grounds, contesting, perhaps, the right of the Senate to try the President on the basis of charges approved by a House of Representatives whose mandate has expired and

impeachment. Long court fight ensues.

they voted on

Representatives who were

voted out of office (in the

November elections) before

# Judge with impeccable reactionary credentials

CHIEF JUSTICE REHNQUIST

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

TO SPEAK of "Nixon's revenge" would be going a mite too far. But assuming President Clinton does undergo a full impeachment trial in the Senate early next year, the blackgowned presence of William Hubbs Rehnquist as judge and supreme arbitrator of his fate, v: symbolise how, in the span quarter century, US politics has gone full circle.

Rehnquist was nominated to America's highest court by Richard Nixon in 1971 and, after stormy confirmation hearings, took his seat in January 1972. Two and a haif years later, a Republican President with a rare capacity to inspire hatred among his political opponents was forced to resign in face of certain impeachment by a Democrat-controlled Congress. Playing a modest but not insignificant part in proceedings was a young staff member on the Watergate committee . Ined Hillary Rodham, later Clinton.

As the country braces for the first impeachment trial of a President since 1968, roles have been uncannily reversed. Nixon's conservative appointee is now Chief Justice of the United States, the man who will act as judge to the jury of 100

This time it will be a Demo-Republican Congress – but a President who, like Nixon, contrives to inspire an almost irrational loathing among many of his political foes. Where Nixon saw a left-liberal plot against him, Rehnquist could be depicted as part of the socalled "right-wing conspiracy" to unseat Bill Clinton.

There are of course dissimilarities - most striking the co ist between the bipartianship over Nixon which showed the American political process at its finest, and



ing which threatens to make that process unworkable. One thing however may be said with confidence: there could cratic President at odds with a not be a Chief Justice that Hillary Clinton would less like to see in charge of the trial of her wayward husband than the 74-year-old William Rehn-

For one thing he is an unwavering conservative. From his days as a Goldwater Republican practising law in Arizona, through his spell as head of the crucially important Legal Counsel's Office at Nixon's Justice Department, to his 27 years at the Supreme Court, Rehnquist has sat firmly on his side of the great cul- and-order" programme, soon

today's vicious partisan brawl- tural and political divide through American society. Famously, once appointed the Court, individual justices break free of the ideology for which they were picked; guaranteed tenure for life gives a man re-markable independence from the political patrons who gave him his job. Not however Rehnquist, bugbear of liberals for four decades.

Back in the 1950s he opposed school desegregation, backing "separate but equal" education for the races. At Justice, he was a vigorous supporter of pre-trial detention, wiretapping, electronic surveillance and other paraphernalia of Nixon's "lawto be grotesquely perverted in the Watergate affair.

Once upon the bench, he was a dissenting voice in the historic 1973 Roe v. Wade judgment that confirmed a woman's right to an abortion, and has opposed gay rights and affirmative action. Today, along with Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia, he forms a troika of unshakeable conservatives on a gradually more liberal

Most ominous for the Clintons however is the manifest lack of sympathy by Rehnquist, an acknowledged specialist on the US constitution, for this President's claims of executive privilege to stall the special prosecutor's investigations – uncannily mirroring similar efforts by Nixon 25 years ago.

Then, the argument revolved around the privacy of tapes of Oval Office conversations; this time Clinton has fought to protect the secrecy of advice given him by White House lawyers, and over whether his bodyguards and security men could be forced to give grand jury testimony. In both cases Rehnquist in person ruled against him.

From there, for many liberals, it is a short jump to identifying the Chief Justice as a the secret weapon in chief of Clinton-haters. He is a Republican friendly with, and from a comparable professional background to, Clinton's nemesis Kenneth Starr.

And indeed, it was Rehnquist who picked the rightwing North Carolina judge who headed the three-man panel which astonished neutrals in 1994 by choosing Starr to replace Robert Fiske, a moderate East Coast Republican as special prosecutor A coincidence? Perhaps. But in today's suspicion-charged Washington. many will be scant inclined to

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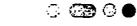


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# The precedents of misdemeanour

# Nixon: The man who cut and ran

WASHINGTON, 1974

"ONLY IF you've been in the BY ANDREW GUMBEL deepest valley," booms an eerily familiar voice from the video screen, "can you know how must somehow be manipulat-President Bill Clinton as he faces the humiliation of a Senate impeachment trial, partic-

the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace, in a remote corner of the sprawling Los Angeles suburbs, and the video being played is entitled, aptly enough, Never Give Up. Made a few years before Mr Nixon's death in 1994, it is a 28-minute orgy of rhetorical self-congratulation and justification for the traumatic events that led, in August 1974, to the first resignation of a US president.

Mr Nixon intones from beyond the grave about world for his group and his people. He peace and the spread of free- didn't attack the whole fabric of dom, while skirting as best he society like... like this guy - I can around the lying, cheating can't even call him 'president' and abuse of federal institutions any more," said George Shusthat led the judiciary committee of his time to draw up two Connecticut and one-time Rearticles of impeachment the quit before they came before the full House).

Watergate takes up the single largest space in the library exhibition - a long wall of pic-White House tapes - but the scandal is presented in highly plot against an essentially honourable president.

Is this the way Bill Clinton will be forced to present his in Yorba Linda, California

magnificent it is to be on the ed to look less embarrassing? highest mountain top." Com- Or are the two cases so differforting words, perhaps, for ent that comparisons are meaningless? After all, faced by bipartisan belief that he should go, Mr Nixon did not even wait ularly since they come from a for the full House to vote upon former president uniquely impeachment. Once the House placed to appreciate his judiciary committee had voted predicament - Richard Nixon. a single article of impeach-We are in the auditorium of ment, the men in grey suits were at the White House and, within a week, Marine One was lifting off from the White House lawn to carry him back home to

> California. One thing is sure - of the many unrepentant Nixon fans who come to his library to pay homage, few display much sympathy for the way the current president is being treated. Many have trouble even calling Mr Clinton by his name.

> "Nixon was just covering up ter, a retired mortician from publican mayoral candidate. "We put our sons and daughters in Washington as interns to

teach them about this great system of ours. To have a man like that taking advantage - why, it's tures, text and audio extracts rotten to the core." Mr Shusfrom Mr Nixon's notorious ter's wife saw even greater evil lurking behind the presidency. "Clinton has destroyed defensive tones as a political the military. The Russians and Asians Nixon fought are now living in the White House! Don't communism behind it all?"



Nixon leaving the White House for good in 1974; the Watergate building (top); the reporters who broke the scandal, Woodward and Bernstein; and 'Tricky Dick' resigns

position to impeachment that Library can supporters be found in any number.

There are those who believe you think there's some kind of · the impeachment proceedings are little more than delayed revenge by the Republican ma-

opinion is behind Mr Clinton in by his Democratic adversaries. Nixonites think he deserves to abused his power," said a San a way it never was for Mr Nobody at the Nixon Library be turfed out. But what about Nixon. So strong is national op- was willing to assign such low Mr Nixon's record? He was motives to the Republicans, al- the man of whom Lyndon Johnonly at places such as the Nixon though plenty were happy to ac- son said: "He can lie out of both cuse the Democrats of putting politics before principle in 1974.

"I think Nixon got a raw deal," opined Joe Betz from Baltimore. "With him it was a political thing, unlike Clinton, who thought Nixon got his just exercise in saving face, in Tricky Dick himself, one might jority in Congress for the lies." President Clinton's purdeserts. "He was a great states which the uncomfortable facts say. Particularly since public treatment handed out to Nixon ported lies are the reason most man, but he also lied and

sides of his mouth at once. And even if he is telling the truth, he lies anyway, just to

keep his hand in." To be fair, some visitors

Diego policeman. "In my job, if I lie I'm fired immediately. The same goes for ... whatsisname."

Such reflections were not echoed by the staff of the library who, in stark contrast to the more virulent-minded visitors, clearly understood the politics of pots and black kettles. "President Nixon always felt it was

library's director of programming, Evie Lazzarino. "This institute aims to celebrate the presidency, not denigrate it."

To the amusement of many visitors, the library is hosting an exhibition on presidential romance - the matrimonial sort, that is. Among the many artefacts, which go back to Lincoln. is Hillary Clinton's wedding unfair to speak out against a sit- gown. It gets plenty of comting president," explained the ments, most of them unprint-

able. In the light of recent events, the exhibition comes off sounding remarkably optimistic about the health of both the Clinton presidency and the Clinton marriage. "On October 11, 2000, President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in the White House. announces the display above

# Johnson: The man who stood and fought to stay in office

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

THE REPUBLICAN Congressman was talking about the American President born into poverty from the border South whom he detested with unforgiving fury: that "ungrateful, despicable, besotted, traitorous man - an incubus".

Bill Clinton, you might imagine. In fact not. The giveaway But despite the space of 130 is the Latin-derived word, incubus, relating to a "nightmare" or "demon". In the 19th century, a knowledge of the classics still meant something. The object of the Congressman's though he had opposed secesloathing was the 17th President, sion, he sought a less punitive Andrew Johnson, the last, and reconstruction for the vanquishat least until today, the only oc- ed South. He had begun life as him only defeat and crushing cupant of the White House to be impeached - in 1868.

not least because Johnson was diately upon entering the White ber, they would have impeachackursy and tactless politician. House he fell foul of Congress, ed him "had he been accused ed, had arranged Lincoln's

WASHINGTON, 1868

that eloquent and consummate political operator, William Jefferson Clinton. He was also untested, a Vice-President who had been promoted by accident three years earlier when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. years and the 24 Presidents which separate them, they are remarkably similar.

Johnson came from Tennessee, a Confederate state, and a Democrat, and only became a Republican with the approach The two cases are different, of the Civil War. Almost imme-

promoted financial aid for freed which in some instances would than whites. For Johnson, the measures were unfair and infringed states' rights. To the fury of the Radical Republicans, he vetoed them both.

The Congressional elections of 1866, in which Johnson sought to outflank his nominal allies by enlisting the support of northern Democrats brought repudiation. The Republicans' hatred of Johnson only grew: in the words of one Cabinet mem-

nowhere near the league of where the Radical faction of the of stepping on a dog's tail". Republican Party, bent on max- Their chance came on 21 Febimum vengeance on the South, ruary 1868, when Johnson dismissed his Secretary of War, blacks, and a Civil Rights Act Edwin Stanton, in defiance of a recent law stipulating that such give them greater voting rights steps required Congressional approval. No matter that the law was unconstitutional. The Radical Republicans went Johnson's skin. The seventh ahead, throwing in some other and last of them was Edmund counts of conspiracy and bring-

ing Congress into disrepute. Here too parallels abound. Johnson's private life, like Clinton's, was less than pristine. Today's 42nd President has been smeared by sexual scandal and lying to a Grand Jury to cover it up - but nothing to match the insinuations against

murder to seize supreme power. Then as now, partisanship swept away all semblance of political civility. On 24 February, Johnson was quickly impeached by a 126-47 vote along party lines, and sent for trial to the Senate on 11 counts in all.

The decisive moment came on 21 May 1868. The Republicans could afford six defections. In fact seven voted to save Ross from Kansas, who was thereafter shunned by his colleagues; evicted from office at the next election; and subjected to vilification by former supporters. History, however, has judged Ross more kindly, as an unsung saviour of the republic's constitution. Johnson for his part managed to serve out the rest of his term. Right now, Bill Clinton would ask no more.



# From the moment of madness to the moment of truth:

It's hard to believe now, but a year ago none of us had heard of Monica Lewinsky. She was just one of many ambitious young things who had done an internship at the White House. The "bimbo eruption" on everybody's lips was Paula Jones, who was bringing a against the President, and a minor player in catalyst for his

7 January 1998 Lewinsky testifies in Called to testify in Paula Jones's sexual harassment case, Monica Lewinsky denies she ever had a sexual relationship with the

President. She allegedly asks Linda Tripp, a friend and ex-White House employee, to lie for her as well. But Tripp has another agenda.

> Tripp tapes chats Tripp wears a hidden microphone for the FBI and records conversations with Lewinsky about the Subsequently prosecutors

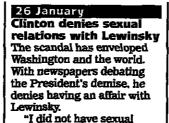


Rumours fly on the Matt Drudge, the scandalmonger of the Internet, reports that

Newsweek has shelved an exposé of an affair between Clinton and Lewinsky. Existence of Tripp's tapes reported The Washington Post reports

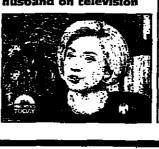
the existence of the tapes

that Tripp made of her chats



relations with that woman." he tells reporters, without elaborating on his somewhat unusual definition of sex.

Hillary Clinton defends



Hillary Clinton appears on national television to defend her husband, calling detractors' allegations a "vast right-wing conspiracy".

President Houdini appears to escape

The Clintons' aplomb. combined with Middle America's indifference. combine to give "President Houdini" his first great escape of the year. Opinion polis show the President's approval ratings at an all-time high.

Kathleen Willey accuses Clinton of fondling As Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, continues his investigation into the President's alleged peccadilloes, Kathleen Willey,

another former White House

worker, accuses the President on television of fondling her by the door to the Oval Office.

Jones case dismissed

Paula Jones's sexual harassment case against the President is dismissed. Willey's claims fade without making much impact.

Lewinsky fires lawyer After weeks of tense

negotiations and impasse between Starr's office and ewinsky, she replaces her high-profile lawyer, William Ginsburg. Starr hasn't managed to convince Lewinsky to testify, but his tentacles are spreading.

Linda Tripp testifies before a Grand Jury



# Groundswell of sympathy for Clinton

VIEW AROUND THE COUNTRY

THEY MAY not have watched all of it - the four votes, their President on the White House lawn vowing to plough on, his eyes almost shut with exhaustion and emotion, or even the speech from Bob Livingston. announcing his intent to resign. But yesterday everybody knew what had happened. And most, apparently, did not like it.

There was not shock among the citizenry, but rather a numbed acknowledgement that a historical bridge had been crossed. And although there are per cent. A total of 62 per cent divisions for sure, a polarisation said he should not resign. between those who wanted President Bill Clinton impeached and those who thought the punishment too harsh, the arguing had, on the whole, subsided. In the churches they prayed that the whole thing, however it ends, should be over

True, at the posh Innis Arden Country Club in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, debate still sputtered on. There on the practice putting green, with a tall flag bearing the stars-andstripes, James Borges argued with his golfing pal Thomas Curtin as he handed him a wrapped gift for Christmas. Mr Borges liked what the Republicans did. Mr Curtin thought it an embarrassing nonsense.

"I think Clinton did wrong and the Republican party was following the principles that were set up in the constitution." Mr Borges said. "Maybe too much has been made of the sex. but the President lied and he should be chased out of office." Mr Curtin rolled his eyes and laughed. "I think this is so I nor my wife have known sexterrible because around the ual relations with anyone else world this makes us look like a bunch of idiots.

BY DAVID USBORNE in New York AND ANDREW **GUMBEL** in Los Angeles

and West coasts finding anybody willing to celebrate the votes on Saturday was a tall the Speaker of the House-elect, order. The common strand was sadness, while a clear majority were angry at the Republicans. The same views were born out by snap polls that showed the popularity rating of the President rising. Notably, the NBC poll showed his approval rating up from 68 to 72

> "There is nothing to say at this stage, except to hope that the whole thing backfires on the Republicans terribly," said Tim Pershing, a camera technician in Hollywood, where support for President Clinton remains strong. Bill Rubenstein, a screenwriter, has been trying to spend an hour a day telephoning politicians, conservative think-tanks, anyone who might listen to his argument that impeachment is wrong. "These people are doing something profoundly evil and, for the most part, they don't even know

Indulging in their ritual Sun-

day morning hour at their local bagel shop, Alfred and Rosalie Hutter of Stamford, Connecticut, understand that the President erred in his private life but disagree that that warrants his removal from office. "We have just had our 50th anniversary," Mr Sutter, a limousine driver, explained. (The couple celebrated with a QEII voyage to England last month). "Neither in all that time, and what the

should be driven out. They say he lied to protect his family. Well yeah, we can understand

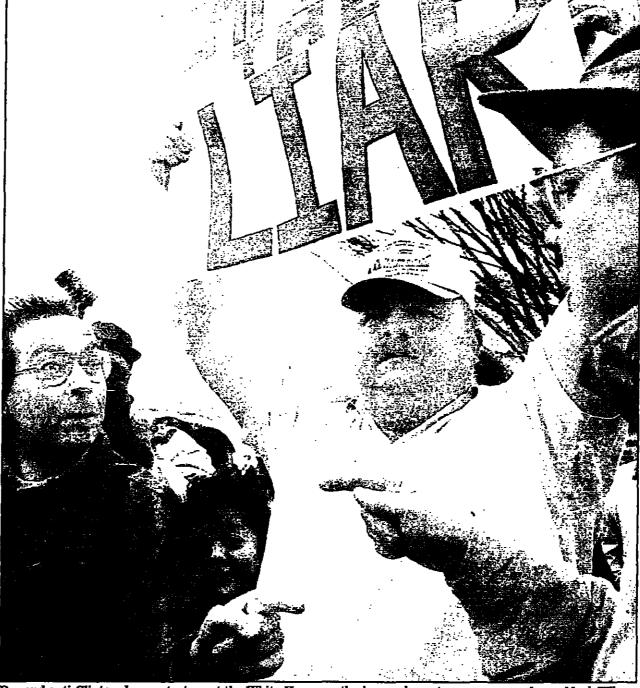
Mr Sutter said the news that Mr Livingston had committed adultery made him laugh. "Actually I was hysterical," he

President Clinton, some have suggested, is America's first black President, because of the affinity felt by many in the African American community towards him. In packed congregations at several churches in Harlem yesterday, the mood was one of dismay and intense sympathy for the first family.

At the minuscule St Samuel Church of God in Christ on East 125th Street, the worshippers had to wait for 20 minutes before the 11 o'clock service finally got under way. That was because their preacher, the Rev. Amos Kemper, was in his office discussing the impeachment vote with his fellow church leaders. All were angry.

"They should give him an other chance, everybody should be given another chance," offered Katie Stokes. The little plastic badge on her dress it. So I try to tell them," he said. might have been for Henry Hyde, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee: "Ain't nobody God but God," it

The Rev. James Duncan watched all of Saturday's proceedings on his television. "They've been trying to put Clinton's back up against the wall in Washington, asking him to confess to perjury and so forth. He can't do it though because they would put him in jail. He is a good president because his is the first president who has been approachable for us." President did was wrong, But Does this mean the Rev Dun-In numerous interviews yes- on the other hand I am not so can would not vote Republican arday with voters on the East offended by it that I think he next time? "I won't be voting



Pro and anti-Clinton demonstrators at the White House as the impeachment was announced

Republican no time," he spits. "There is no minority in this country who should be voting for that party, because it is the Good Ol' Boy party," the Reverend Kemper interjects. "What we saw yesterday was really the dogma of the human race, the dogma to hurt. The Republicans want to ignore us. the people, and that's got to be

most entirely white, Cardinal Patrick O'Connor asked for prayers, not for President Clinton but for the impeachment process - that it should be "resolved soon and justly". They were prayers offered, after all. in a season that is meant to be about peace and goodwill.

George Sinko, a retired advertising executive who travels from Long Island to worship at Seventy blocks south at St St Patrick's, is a long-time Re-Patrick's Catholic Cathedral, publican. His views, however,

terday's service. "What President Clinton did does not constitute an impeachable offence in my view. This whole thing has been entirely partisan. I think it has been terribly unfair and is distracting the country from so many other important things he should be caring about."

As the politicians from both parties in Washington headed bome to their districts and their families yesterday they leave one drama behind them where the congregation was al- were with the majority at yes- and know that another drama

awaits them in the New Year, the expected trial in the Senate. For sure, they will be hearing from their constituents over the Christmas season.

But, as they see the dismay over the partisanship that reigns in Washington, they may want to consider these words written above the make-shift altar St Samuel's Church in Harlem: "We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord and we pray that all unity may,

## VOCAL **AMERICANS**

Thomas Малп. Brookings Institution: It is not an ennobling time. As someone who's watched national politics for almost 30 years. I've never been so ashamed of our national political leaders, and never so saddened by the



actress and staunch Clinton supporter: "Who could have imagined that we would be living in a time when those we elected to office would turn off their phones and unplug their fax machines in order to ignore the voices of the American people?"

Walter Isaacson, the managing editor of Time magazīne, which named Bill Clinton and Kenneth Starr its "men of the vear": "Decades hence. we will still be debating the meaning of the great Clinton-Starr struggle and picking at the lingering wounds."



conservative columnist: "Congress is not the appropriate venue for Livingston to tell his wife, as he did in the middle of an impeachment debate, he loves her... nor is his resignation a sign of political valour. Instead. it blurs irreparably the line between the president's serial infidelities and his serial lying under oath.

# Ku Klux Klan man will Bid to remove the chief stand for Livingston seat has unified the party

REPUBLICAN REACTION

BY ANDREW MARSHALL

AS IF the Republicans needed any more bad news, David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klan leader, has said he will run for the congressional seat vacated by Bob Livingston, the Speaker elect who resigned on Saturday.

"I am running because there gress who stands up for the European-American." Mr Duke said, a message that the party really does not need. Because . Dough it may have got what it wanted - the impeachment of President Bill Clinton - the party has emerged battered, bleeding and deeply di-

The resignation of Mr Livingston crystallised its prob- on the House floor." lems. He had been appointed just weeks ago after Newt Gin- cans' chief whip, came appar-

grich, the former Speaker, resigned in the wake of the election rout

Mr Livingston was forced to admit on Thursday that he had damaged his marriage through adulterous liaisons, after a Washington newsletter published details on its web site.

Mr Livingston presented his needs to be one member of Con-resignation as an honourable reaction to his problems, and challenged the President to follow suit. But in truth, he was brought down by the anger of conservative members of his own party. The resignation left his colleagues stunned.

"It was like a punch in the stomach," said New York Republican Peter King. "Some members were actually crying

Tom DeLay, the Republi-



resign by colleagues

ently to praise Mr Livingston. "He understood what this dehate was all about - it's about honour and decency and in-

Starr completes report Starr sends his completed

report to Congress under

Starr report published

The Starr report, in all its

published on the Internet.

damning, lurid detail, is

Clinton's testimony

shown on TV

high security: Clinton

tegrity and the truth, everything we honour in this country," he said. But Mr deLay, who was the first target of criticism after the elections saw the Republicans lose House seats, has emerged suspiciously wellplaced. The new speaker is ikely to be Tom Hastert, a protégé of his from the whips' of-

The Republicans in the Sen-House party has turned itself inwant a repetition in their House hearings, embarrassing questions and opinion polls that show the public think they are partisan and vindictive.

All of this points towards some early move to broker a his handling of the debate. deal which sees the President

By Mary Dejevsky

ALTHOUGH CONGRESSIONAL Democrats have suffered the indignity of seeing their President impeached by a convincing majority in the House of Representatives, they are standing behind Bill Clinton.

The number of Democrats who voted for impeachment was kept to six, Representatives ate have watched aghast as the came out of the Chamber en masse to protest at the rejecside out. They are unlikely to tion of a censure vote, and massed a couple of hours later of the same events: weeks of at the White House to demonstrate their continuing support for the President. Their leader in the house, Dick Gephardt, strengthened his position and earned widespread respect for

> The party's solidarity is in marked contrast to the defec-

tions in the congressional party suffered by Richard Nixon 24 years ago and is one crucial reason why Mr Clinton has sur-

**DEMOCRAT REACTION** 

vived this far In the summer, in the wake of Mr Clinton's 17 August admission that he had lied about his relationship with Ms Lewinsky, morale in the party was low and divisions multiplied as mid-

term elections approached. But Hillary Clinton's campaigning zeal, and Mr Clinton's strong showing in opinion polls, seemed to rally the party, and the Democrats' election results were far stronger than anyone had expected.

Since then, Democrats have been almost unanimous in their support of Mr Clinton, and his plight may even have served as a unifying force. The orthodoxy now is that he has been



unfairly targeted by Republicans and that he has done, and will continue to do, much

good for the country.

So far, a majority of Democrats has chosen to disregard, or to parry, the vexed question of principle and it is possible that this could become a divisive factor when Mr Clinton is tried in the Senate.

Despite this backing, the White House is said to be worried that momentum could build up behind calls for Mr Clinton to step down, especially after Bob Livingston's resignation from the House speakership on Saturday.

But so long as opinion polls show a majority in the country still approving of Mr Clinton, Democrats seem prepared to rally around their President, and the Nixon precedent of senior party officers arriving at the White House to persuade him to resign seems remote.

# William Jefferson Clinton's year of living dangerously

28 July 1998 Starr offers Monica Lewinski immunity Kenneth Starr announces he has finally reached a deal giving Lewinsky immunity from prosecution for perjury in exchange for full details about her relationship with the President.

Lewinsky testifies in front of a Grand Jury Lewinsky testifies in front of a Grand Jury for six hours.

Clinton confesses on

national TV On the day of his longawaited testimony the President tells the Grand Jury, and the nation that he has relationship with msky that was "not appropriate". He does not

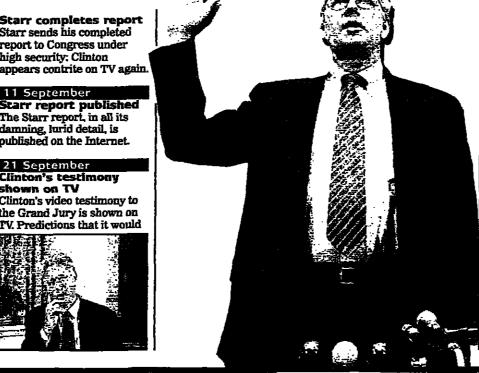


apologise and looks relaxed on TV as he goes to Martha's Vineyard on 18 August

Clinton orders bombing Clinton orders the bombing of a "chemical weapons plant" in Sudan and a terrorist base in Afghanistan.

Clinton says he is sorry Clinton apologises for the affair: "I'm sorry," he tells





trigger his immediate downfall are wrong. 15 October Impeachment flounders The impeachment inquiry appears to be floundering.

Democrats gain seats Democrats increase seats in the Congressional mid-term elections. Clinton sheds his contrition and regains his

confidence – and cockiness.

20 November Ethics adviser resigns Start's ethics adviser resigns after the special prosecutor defends his much-derided report in front of Congress.

Demand made for impeachment vote House speaker-elect Bob Livingston insists he wants



an impeachment vote even if it appears it will go in favour of the President 9 December

Impeachment proposed The House Judiciary Committee proposes four articles of impeachment.

After lobbying by the President's aides and Hillary, Congressmen launch into a heated and controversial debate on impeachment.

19 December Vote to impeach Lobbying fails. The House votes to impeach Clinton

# Strategy aims at endgame for Saddam

MILITARY OPTIONS

TONY BLAIR and Bill Clinton By ANDREW MARSHALL have laid out a new strategy towards Saddam Hussein aimed at containing him militarily and preparing for his end.

the new plan is the dispatch of containment, laid out by the US the British aircraft carrier HMS Invincible to the Gulf. George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said: "It is a very big first is the readiness to use signal – we are not going away, force. "We will maintain a we remain vigilant."

The ship can mount air and land attacks, and carries up to to use it if Saddam tries to re-24 aircraft - usually a mix of Sea build his weapons of mass de-Harrier FA2 fighters, RAF Har-struction, strikes out at his rier GR7 bombers and Sea King helicopters.

The carrier, which has been refitted since serving in the Faiklands, has a crew of 1,200 in Washington AND ANDREW GRICE

The most visible element of ments in the new strategy of President on Saturday and the Prime Minister yesterday in virtually identical speeches. The strong military presence in the area, and we will remain ready neighbours, challenges allied aircraft, or moves against the Kurds," Mr Clinton said.

The second element is the maintenance of sanctions. "We

sanctions in UN history," Mr Clinton said. The US and Britain will support the oil-forfood programme, but, "we will insist that Iraq's oil be used for food, not tanks", Mr Clinton said. Again, that means more military and naval action.

"We will be acting to ensure that implementation of sanctions is as rigorous as we can make it, for example through reinforced operations in the Gulf to intercept suspect traffic," Mr Blair said. "We need, radically in my view, to improve sanctions-enforcement."

The third pillar is counterproliferation - ensuring that Iraq does not develop its weapons of mass destruction This will be much harder with-

among the most extensive out Unscom on the ground providing intelligence. Again, all that is left is military force.

"If Unscom is not allowed to resume its work on a regular basis, we will remain vigilant and prepared to use force if we see that Iraq is rebuilding its weapons programmes," Mr Clinton said.

The fourth is perhaps the most intriguing - the replace-ment of Saddam Hussein. "Over the long-term the best way to end the threat that Saddam poses to his own people in the region is for Iraq to have a different government," said Mr Clinton.

The US has already stepped up links with the Iraqi opposition, and had said it would work out before the end of the

year ways of disbursing the \$97m agreed by Congress for military training and equipment. "We will intensify our engagement with the Iraqi opposition groups, prudently and effectively," Mr Clinton said.

The US and Britain have also given clear signals that they believe there is someone, or something, waiting in the wings. "We will stand ready to help a new leadership in Baghdad that abides by its international commitments and respects the rights of its own people," Mr Clinton said. "We hope it will return Iraq to its rightful place in the communi-

ty of nations. Achieving these goals will require two principal means - military and diplomatic. On the one

hand, both countries have a lot of fences to mend with their allies in Europe, as well as Russia and China. "We are launching an intensive diplomatic process with other members of the Security Council," said Mr Blair, "with the countries of the region, with our European partners to forge a new strategy for stability in relations

between the international community and Iraq." He put much more weight on diplomacy in his speech than

Mr Clinton did in his. On the other, a continuing military presence in the Gulf will require great expenditure and a shift towards a much more active policy for both na-

tions in the region. The US al-

ready maintains a considerable

Gulf, and it is reinforcing it. It is sending an extra 40 groundbased aircraft, and special airto-ground surveillance aircraft that will enable the US to track the movements of tanks and vehicles.

The addition of HMS Invincible means that, by January, there will be two or perhaps three aircraft carriers in the Gulf; there are currently two US carriers 'the USS Enterprise and the USS Carl Vinson), though the Enterprise may be

rotated out. But for Britain, the mission in the Gulf may mark a much more important transition.

Mr Blair has made a longterm commitment to a military force in the Gulf, but also seems

military and naval force in the to be making an attempt to forge a quiet new form of strate-gic alliance with the US outside of Europe.

Britain withdrew its military forces from east of Suez in 1971 because of its reduced circumstances, closing bases and focusing almost exclusively on the Nato mission in

Now, the return of the Invincible seems to suggest a gradual return to the globalism that died out in the Sixties. Britain has also recently bought its own submarinelaunched Tomahawk cruise missiles, and is planning two new aircraft carriers. There may be a shift taking place that has profound implications for foreign and defence policy.

# Target list suggests more action is planned

THE DAMAGE

are claiming that they hit all of in Washington the targets on their list in four days of air strikes.

But it is difficult to survey the target lists without coming to the conclusion that this operation leaves the way open for some other form of military action against, or within, Iraq. The focus on military units and communications facilities in the south of the country sug- be developed, but they want to gests that Washington and London believe there is a possibility

Vol

Ho

of a revolt against the regime. The US and Britain have released fairly extensive information about the targets of their strikes and the extent of the strikes. the damage done.

the 1991 Gulf War, total victory. he sort of backlash wh came in 1991 when it was discovered that not everything that they said had been destroved was even hit.

system, which was moderately damaged.

The US and Britain hit comand radar sites across the country. This would have been expected as part of any air attack - it clears the way for aircraft, rather than missiles, to be used. The US said that it wanted to clear an air corridor from the south of the country

to the north. The second main category of attack was the sites associated with weapons of mass destruction. The targets seem to have been principally sites associated with the weaponisation of chemical, nuclear and biological threats - missile factories and repair sites, guidance manufacturers and

The US avoided dual-use sites where the chemical or biological agents might have been prepared, partly because these might have entailed civilian casualties, partly because. an insurgency.

BRITAIN AND the United States BY ANDREW MARSHALL

it said, it feared releasing dangerous chemicals into the air. But it would also be far harder to find these sites, and they might be easier for the Iraqis to patch up.

The message seemed to be that London and Washington still fear that such weapons will stop Iraq from being able to deliver them.

The Pentagon said that it believed it had delayed Iraq's missile programme by a year that implies it wants to revisit

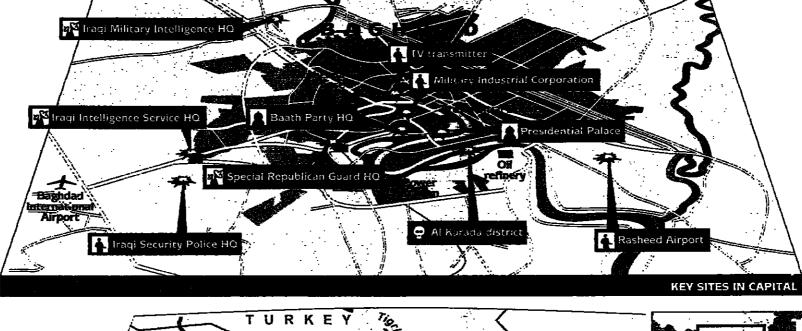
the damage done. The third category of targets
They have not claimed, as was politico-military. There has was sometimes the case during obviously been an effort to remove or weaken the upper tier They have been more modest of the regime. The key comin their assessments. fearing mand centres of the Republican corps and divisional headquarters. So have the main barracks and HQs of the Special Republican Guard, the The first main category of units with the task of protecttargets was the air defence ing the regime, and the headquarters and barracks of all of the intelligence organisations.

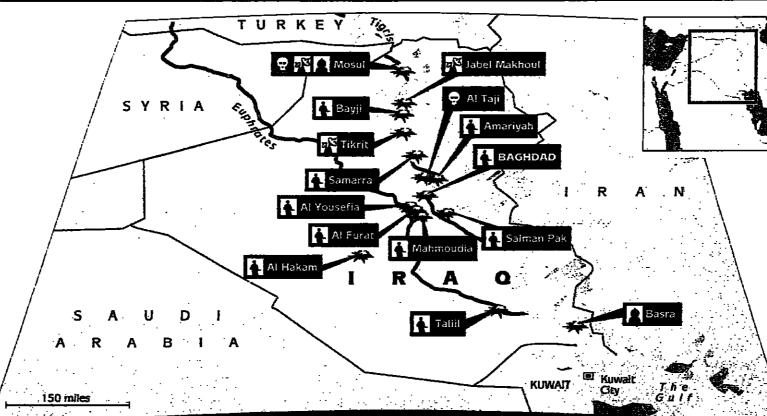
These attacks on security ormand centres, surface-to-air ganisations were explained as missiles, communication links assaults on the weapons concealment programme, in which all of these organisations played a key role.

But they are also important elements in the regime's internal security. Add to that the other targets, and it looks as if some other military action – either internal revolt, or some sort of limited intervention from outside - is being contemplated. The US destroyed communications facilities tying together the north and south of the country, for instance. These links can be restored within a few months, so there must have been some reason for wanting to weaken the com-

munications in the short term. And the attacks on assault helicopter bases across the country also indicate that America wants to prevent Iraq from being able to respond to

# 📤 Iraqi Security Police HC





Military and Air Defence Targets:

Communications facilities in An-Baghdad Republican Guard: Southern Corps HQ in Al Kut; Northern Corps HQs and barracks in Mosul and Kut. Air Defence centre in Baghdad Surface-to-air missile systems and anti-aircraft sites across the country, including radars, command

and control systems and SAM missiles in Tikrit, Bayji, Samarra, Basrah, Ash Shuatybah and An Nasiriyah Major air and military bases at Mosul, Tikrit, Taji and Rashid in Baghdad and other airfields at Al-Sahra (near Tirkit), Al-Asawa, Habaniyya, Al Kut and Talil housing pilotless planes and attack helicopters.

Weapons of Mass Destruction:

Rashidiyeh, northern suburbs of Nasariyeh, Al Rumaylah, Al Qurnah and Baghdad: centrifuge development. Jebel Makhoul: Presidential site Al Taji complex near Baghdad: long-HQ in Rashediyeh, Baghdad; Divisional range missile development and missile

> Al Karama, North-western suburbs of Baghdad. Missile guidance and control

Al Kindi, Mosul. Missile development

ibn ai Haytham, north of Baghdad. Missile research and development Al Rafah. 60km W of Baghdad of Baghdad. Missile engines.

Security and Intelligence Targets:

Iraqi Intelligence Service HQ and ten other offices in Baghdad. Special Security HQ in Baghdad Military Intelligence HQ in Baghdad Special Republican Guard bases in Baghdad: Republican palace, Radwaniyeh, Amariya, Hai Al Jihad, Saddam International Airport. Regional presidential Secretariat Hqs and barracks in Tikrit, Mosul, Jebel radio and TV transmitters and Makhoul

General Security Service HQ in Baghdad (Al Baladiat area)

Political and economic Targets:

main grain silo in Tikrit. Oll refinery in Basra The house of Saddam's daughter Hala

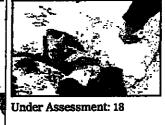
in Baghdad. the main Presidential Palace complex. The Baath Party Academy in Baghdad. The Baath Party headquarters

jammers. Baghdad Museum of Natural History Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs Al Mustansiriya University

Statistics of War American and British aircraft flew 650 strike and support sorties. 97 targets were hit in total. US Navy launched more than 325 cruis missiles. US Air Force launched more than 90 cruise missiles. The twelve **RAF Tornado bombers flew** 32 sorties and dropped



Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAMs), Integrated Air Total Sites Attacked: 32 Destroyed/Damaged: 6 Moderate/Light Damage: 8



Destroyed/Damaged: 11 Moderate/Light Damage: 6 Under Assessment: 3

Sites Attacked: 18 Damaged: 7 Moderate/Light Damage: 11 Under Assessment: 0

R&D, Storage Destroyed/Damaged: 1

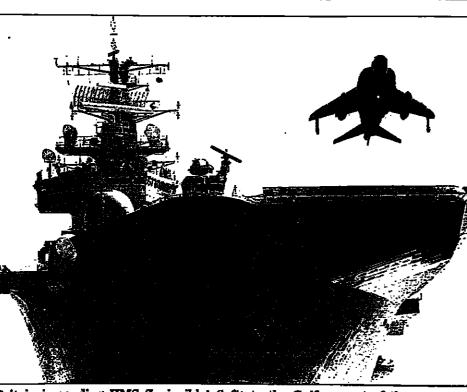
Moderate/Light Damage: 9 Under Assessment: 1

Total Sites Attacked: 9 Destroyed/Damaged: 3 Moderate/Light Damage: 6 Under Assessment: 0

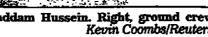
Total Sites Attacked: 5 Destroyed/Damaged: 0 Moderate/Light Damage: 5 Under Assessment: 1

Total Sites Attacked: 1 Destroyed/Damaged: 0 Moderate/Light Damage: 1 Under Assessment: 0











Britain is sending HMS Invincible' (left) to the Gulf as part of the new strategy to 'contain' Saddam Hussein. Right, ground crew after further air strikes were called off

Kenin Coombs/Reuters

Black Hook belicopters undergoing maintenance checks close to the Iraqi border.



Children gather around a huge crater yesterday caused by a missile attack late on Saturday on the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry in Baghdad

# Do you think our soldiers were crazy enough to stay in barracks?'

## THE VIEW FROM THE GROUND

AFTER THREE days of missile attacks the tops of many tall buildings in Baghdad are cracked open like concrete eggs, the upper stories reduced the bombing - Saddam's regime - is undamaged.

"It will all be rebuilt in two or three months," said an Iraqi friend. "After all, half the population is unemployed so we are not short of labour. Saddam knew he could take a limited attack like this and declare himself a winner. If the aim was to geaken the regime in Iraq then "was not serious."

Already yesterday, government officials were sounding a triumphant note. "We knew they could not go on firing three hundred missiles a day," said one. He refused to comment on military casualties but added: "Do you think our soldiers were crazy enough to

stay in their barracks?" The short bombardment showed that Iraq has no defence against cruise missiles. The anti-aircraft fire was meagre compared to the fireworks of 1991. But the fact that SadBy Patrick Cockburn

dam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, is still in place at the end of the to a tangle of twisted metal and air assault seems to be evibroken masonry. But most dence to many Iraqis that he to his rule by the United States and Britain - the elephant and the rat, in the unkind comparison of Tariq Aziz the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister.

Security in Baghdad is tight. Armed Baath party militia are on street corners. Outside the capital it is impossible to know at first hand what is happening. But the willingness of the government to take journalists to Basra, near the Kuwaiti border in the south, suggests that it is confident that they are fully in control, despite the fact that some of the bombardment was specifically aimed at destabilising Republican Guard units in

It was not a war without victims. In the first two days the below subsistence level. Iraqi Ministry of Health says 68 civilians were killed in and around Baghdad. Indirect casualties are likely to be far greater. Much of Iraq's 22 million people live on or just



Business as usual: A man chooses fruit at a market in the centre of Baghdad yesterday

Unicef said that a survey it carried out in October showed that one in five Iraqi infants are suffering from chronic or acute malnutrition.

With so many people only

it does not take much to push them below the breadline. For instance, every morning in labourers gather in different

just surviving from day to day hired. They earn the equivalent International, the aid organiof about one pound a day. For the last three days they have not been seen.

"People like that have nothing to fall back on," said Marparts of Baghdad waiting to be garet Hassan, the head of Care For a month, I was in a hospi-

sation in Iraq. There are people here so poor that they cannot even afford the 200 dinars - 11 pence - which it takes to buy the official food ration.

tal in Kerbala (in the south) where they had no food to feed the mothers of newborn infants. Children over the age of one were getting a cup of tea and a piece of bread in the morning and nothing else."

In many ways Iraq has be come less vulnerable to high technology attack because it has returned, after eight years of sanctions, to a pre-techno-

to destroy. In Saddam City, the buge working-class district of east Baghdad, a local doctor, who did not want to be named, said: The economic collapse here even generates jobs. People no longer use the telephone, but send messages by hand. Street cleaning is done by men with buckets not garbage trucks. Of course they get paid very lit-

Amidst such massive depriration a few hundred missiles -frightening though they are as they strike - make little impact on the lives of ordinary Iragis. It is unlikely to make them rise up against the government, even if they were able to do so against such a tightly organised security system. This is the view of every Iraqi I have spoken to in Baghdad. One man summed up the views of all the others: "In the end, it

#### BATTLE LINES

SADDAM HUSSEIN You were up to the level that your leadership and



hoped you would be at...so God rewarded you and delighted your hearts with the crown of victory. "God will repay well and crown your heart with clear victory, which will be attested by your enemies

"We have severely damaged Saddam's ability to produce and repair ballistic missiles. "We have severely set back his chemical. biological and unmanned drone programmes. This...weakens his ability to threaten his neighbours. Just because we can't get in the cage and strike him down, it doesn't mean that we should leave the cage



untouched. What we have done is put him firmly back in his cage." We have reduced the danger Saddam poses. consistent with common sense and a proportionate use of force. I recognise that not everyone around the world has welcomed this action but I believe. at heart, most know its necessity.

"We are ready to strike again if he again poses a threat to his neighbours, or develops weapons of mass destruction."

BILL CLINTON (after impeachment) 'We are a good and decent country but we have significant challenges we have to

"In order to do it right.



we have to have some atmosphere of decency presumption of good faith, some sense of proportionality and balance in bringing judgment against those who are in different parties. \*We must stop the politics

of personal destruction."

# Foreign Office to sell containment

## BRITAIN'S DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE

offensive yesterday aimed at securing international support for its doctrine of "containment" of President Saddam Hussein and winning over several European allies who are deeply unhappy with the Anglo-American bombing of Iraq.

The crisis in the Gulf has demonstrated once more that Britain has a special relationship with the US. The phrase does not require inverted commas. It is a fact of life, cemented by history, shared language and intensive military and intelligence co-operation, oozing up through the bureaucracy to affect whichever British government is in power.

This time again, an almost instinctive mechanism has functioned. But not to everyone's liking. For all the Prime Minister's claims of backing for the raids among European and oderate Arab opinion, British aicials acknowledge that many fences must be mended grammes are no more. and many reassurances given.

BRITAIN BEGAN a diplomatic By RUPERT CORNWELL

And the signs already are that "containment" could run into big problems over the future of United Nations sanctions against Baghdad.

Tony Blair's assertion that sanctions must be tightened seemed to be contradicted yesterday by President Jacques Chirac of France, who insisted that the top priority must be to improve conditions of life for ordinary Iraqis. Urging a "pro-found review" of the relationship between Iraq and the UN, Mr Chirac said the time had come to re-examine the oil embargo, which was imposed

after the 1991 Gulf War. Britain insists the embargo, eased by more recent oil-forfood deals, should stay - at least until the unlikely event that UN weapons inspectors are allowed back into Iraq and certify that its chemical, nuclear France could be charitably deand biological weapons pro-

But France wants at least an

easing of the sanctions, while providing safeguards against Iraqi rearmament. It would be "a politically delicate" question, Mr Chirac acknowledged, with some understatement.

Britain's efforts to explain itself get under way in earnest this morning when the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, holds a two-hour meeting in London with his German coun terpart, Joschka Fischer, whose country takes over the rotating EU Presidency in 10 days' time and who has publicly lamented the bombings of Iraq. Afterwards, the Foreign Sec-

retary has set aside most of the afternoon for phone calls to his opposite numbers in Russia and EU countries including Italy and France, in which he will "be seeking to win them round to our ideas of containment", officials said last night.

The task may be difficult. If

scribed as ambivalent about the

opposed, while Moscow with-

bombing, Italy was explicitly

in protest - though the Government strenuously insists that there has been no longterm setback to co-operation with Russia. And the attacks could have serious implications for future European defence strategy.

At one level, whatever Mr Blair says, they will cast doubt on Britain's commitment to the new "European defence identity" he wishes to impart to the EU, whereby the Union on occasion could take military



drewits ambassador to London

involvement of the US. At another, the strikes effectively taken without consultation with either Britain's EU or Nato partners - may increase resistance to an "outof-area" function for the alliance, turning into some-

thing akin to a global policeman. This is already likely to be the principal item of controversary at next April's 50th anniversary Nato summit in Washington, charting the alliance's post-Cold War role.

# Sidelined Yeltsim warns the Allies

## WORLD REACTION

RELIEF THAT the bombardment of Iraq has ended was the common emotion across the international community yesterday combined in many cases with an urgent desire to avoid a repeat attack.

Though the most vocal criticism of the American and British action came from opposition groups in Arab countries, Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President, issued an urgent warning against further use of military force against Iraq.

"Reason has finally prevailed," he said in a written statement. "It still remains to fully assess the negative political consequences the bombardment led to, not to speak of the victims among the civilian population and the significant damage to the Iraqi economy, which was already

bled dry by the sanctions." Mr Yeltsin's stance of the past few days is the strongest position he has taken against his putative political friends in London and Washington. "It is

BY DARIUS SANAI

absolutely clear that the use of force only complicated the sohution of the Iraqi problem," he said. "Nobody has the right to violate the UN charter," he added. The Russian President was not informed in advance of the attacks and despite his opposition has appeared helpless

to stop them. Other Western leaders, while avoiding criticism of the action, were careful to emphasise the need for peaceful progress in the impasse between Iraq and the UN. Germany and Japan urged Baghdad to start working with the UN again to avert the possibil-

ity of another military strike. "The German government therefore calls on Iraq to resume its co-operation with the UN," Chancellor Gerhard Schröder said, a comment echoed by Japanese Foreign

Minister Masahiko Komura. Although none of the leaders

made any public statements, officials in some pro-Western Gulf Arab countries expressed their reservations about allowing bombardment to be launched from their territory.

In Rabat, the Moroccan capital, there was a demonstration by around 100,000 people, with demonstrators denouncing the "assassin" Bill Clinton and his "pet dog" Tony Blair.

There were similar protests in the West Bank Jordan and Syria. In Damascus, over 1,000 angry demonstrators, mostly students, attacked the American and British embassies.

An British embassy statement said the Ambassador, Basil Eastwood, had formally complained to Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa asking for adequate protection and compensation for the damage inflicted by the protesters.

Mr al-Sharaa reportedly offered a "full apology" and stressed that there will be suitable protection for all British buildings and nationals. of Iraq's Muslim neighbours



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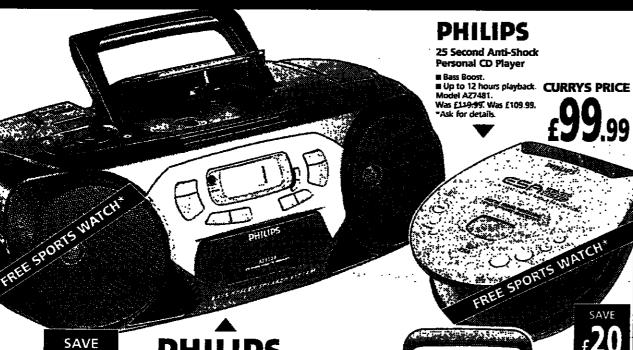
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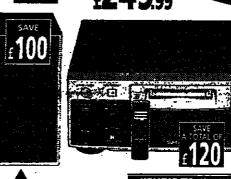
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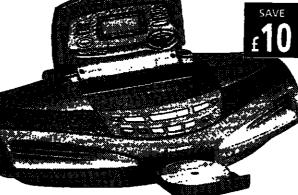
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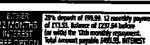
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The Spice Girls, left, are No 1 this Christmas after beating Johnny Vaughan and Denise Van Outen. Jimmy Osmond, right, a past winner

# Bookies lose on Spice Christmas

IT IS as much part of the fes-tivities as turkey and the Queen's broadcast. The Christmas No 1 marks the time when the music business abandons its cool image and unleashes catchy, sentimental and downright silly singles on the charts.

Yesterday, Radio 1 an-nounced that the Spice Girls have equalled the Beatles' hattrick with their third consecutive No 1. "Goodbye", beating off close competition from Chef's "Chocolate Salty Balls". Denise and Johnny's "Especially For You" was number three with

By GLENDA COOPER

Cher's former chart-topper "Believe" at number four. The bookmakers William Hill estimate they have lost £250,000 over the past three years due to the Spice Girls making it to No 1. They are already quoting the Girls as favourites for next year at 2.1 and are nervously looking at the weather (the double bet on the Spice Girls and a white

Christmas at 8-1 could cost them an awful lot). John McKie, editor of

Smash Hits, says he was not (1973), St Winifred's School surprised by the Spice Girls' supremacy: "They are the biggest pop act on the planet, they release a single the week before Christmas - it's not exactly rocket science to see they were going to make it."

But he added that it is not always as clear cut: "Christmas is also the time when people that would never usually get to No 1 can make it, like Mr Blobby or the Teletubbies."

While the rest of the country quails at the thought of Slade's "Merry Xmas Everybody"

Choir's "There's No One Quite Like Grandma" (1980), or "Long Haired Lover from Liverpool", Little Jimmy Osmond (1972) blaring out again, for record companies the Christ-

mas No 1 remains crucial. Estimates suggest a Christmas single can sell three times as many copies as a normal chart topper, with the festive season accounting for 40 per cent of profits. "A Christmas No 1 is a landmark in the calendar." said Steve Redmond. editor-in-chief of Music Week. ard saying 'Buy my record'."

"A Christmas single can also propel sales of an album." While the Spice Girls took few risks, their latest offering enjoying a sophisticated PR campaign for weeks, the spinoff from the cartoon South Park, voiced by 1970s soul legend Isaac Hayes, took a more low-key approach. The Chef single had little airplay due to its risque lyrics, and the record company's approach. says Mr Redmond, "was a man dressed as Chef walking up and down Oxford Street with a plac-

# Murder leads to hunt for toddler

POLICE WERE searching desperately yesterday for a twoyear-old girl after her mother was found murdered in her home in Liverpool.

It is believed that the woman 22-year-old Sharon Lester had been dead for more than two days when her mother found her body. She had been beaten and repeatedly stabbed. Merseyside police issued an



Jade Lester, 2: Mother's body was found at home

about the whereabouts of Ms stolen. A police spokeswoman Lester's daughter, Jade. It is told The Independent: "We are thought she was last seen nine days ago, a week before Ms little girl's clothes are missing, Lester's body was found at her but obviously it is a very diffihome in the Kensington area of cult time for the family." the city.

nationwide hunt for Jade. They as forensic scientists searched said it was now "critical" they found the toddler's father, who is believed to be from the area but lives elsewhere.

Yesterday Merseyside police officers were interviewing Ms Lester's boyfriend, John Park, who comes from the Tue Brook area of Liverpool. They trace the missing child.

had appealed for him to come forward in the hope that the girl may have been with him.

**Detective Superintendent** Russ Walsh, the officer in charge of the investigation, said: "We just do not know where she is. We would like to think she is safe and well with somebody who is taking good care of the little girl, wherever that may be. But at this moment in time we just haven't got a clue."

Police are particularly keer to speak to two men seen with a van at the house on Saturday, about two hours before Ms Lester's body was found. A police spokesman said: "They may be unconnected, but we are looking for more sightings of the van and for the man or men to come forward and tell us what they were doing there.'

Ms Lester's body was found in a downstairs room at the back of the house, police said. Officers were unable to confirm urgent appeal for information whether anything had been trying to establish if any of the

House-to-house inquiries Detectives have launched a were being extended last night for clues at the murder scene. Relatives, friends and health workers who have come into contact with Jade are being traced, the spokeswoman said. Neighbours were also being asked to come forward with any information that might help to

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# Internet tries to bring God closer

FOR THOSE who believed God's BY CLARE GARNER message was getting lost amid the increasing Christmas commercialism, help, of a sort, is at announcement is triggered by hand. A new gift service guar- an invisible beam so, every antees that the Almighty will communicate with you on a regular basis - sending inspirational verses of the Bible via

The Pages from God facility is one of a burgeoning number of theological gizmos available on the Internet. It will page you are marketing a Repent! Wrist-20 times a month - in return for a small subscription.

Or invest in some Testamints, which come in three flavours and have wrappers bearing verses of the Bible. "Next time you're on a train... think: Testamint," reads the blurb for a special seasonal tin. "Pass them round and do the work of an evangelist. You'll be helping to share the Good Chews.

Less tasteful is the Talking Tombstone, a standard granite and bronze memorial, which "Amen" button to bring each has the bizarre addition of a rendition to a fitting close.

built-in speaker. A recorded time a visitor approaches, a metallic voice declares something to the effect of "Hi! I was Jane Smith. I died at 10.15am, Thursday, November 25th 1994. Thanks for coming to see me. Have a nice day."

Meanwhile, the Mormons watch, a constant reminder that whatever time it is, it is always time to repent.

Other suggestions for a lastminute Christmas present for your parish priest include a Cometh the Hour, Cometh the Text digital clock, which flashes up verses of the Bible on the hour. And finally, fun for all the family with an Ecclesiastical Karaoke machine. This digital player has 3,000 hymns to choose from and an optional









# \*THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Sneeze and you'll miss it: how to survive the common cold this winter

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WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE MCEIVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

# Lockerbie: 10 years on and families pray for the truth

AN EMOTIONAL warning to the British and American governments not to jeopardise a trial of the two Libyans suspected of the Lockerbie bombing was delivered yesterday, on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the Pan Am 103 mass murder. Bert Ammerman, a 52-year-

old high school principal from New Jersey, stood outside a church in the Borders town where he spent nine days waiting to identify his dead brothand expressed the frustration of the victims' families in their search for the truth. "I couldn't care less if these guys are found guilty or not. They are only what we Americans would call 'guppies' small pawns," Mr Ammerman said after attending the morning mass at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

"A trial will release the evidence and that's the most important thing. If you don't have a trial you are never going to find happen, that's a scandalous issue on the heads of the British and American governments."

There has long been suspicion among victims' relatives that it has suited security services not to face the spotlight of a trial.

Mr Ammerman contrasted the readiness of the US to wage war in the Gulf with its tardiness over an atrocity in which 189 Americans died.

Scotland Correspondent

Some 50 relatives and friends of American victims are expected to be in Lockerbie today.

At 7.03pm, during a memorial service, there will be a minute's silence, marking the moment 10 years ago when a terrorist bomb exploded in the aircraft at 31,000 feet, killing all 259 people on board and 11 on the ground in an inferno as the ploughed into their homes.

There will be four simultaneous services - in Lockerbie. attended by Prince Philip; in Westminster Abbey, attended by the Tony Blair; at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, attended by President Bill Clinton; and at Syracuse in New York State, which lost 35 university students.

last Sunday before Christmas, the truth. And if a trial doesn't Lockerbie did not look like a for answers to the tragedy. town overshadowed by tragedy. A cluster of about 20 reporters and photographers opposite Holy Trinity church attracted a few curious glances.

> media and the grim notoriety the disaster has brought it. After identifying his brother,

Mr Ammerman hoped never to come back to Lockerbie. "I wanted always to remember the carnage, the smell of gaso-



Bert Ammerman, from New Jersey, crosses the field where the Pan Am cockpit fell. His brother was killed in the bombing

line, the debris and the bodies." But as a leading representative of the American victims' Under a clear blue sky on the families, he has made a succession of visits in the campaign

Along the way, he has made wood Crescent, where Lockerbie's victims were incinerated But Lockerbie is tired of the in their homes, has been rebuilt and looks no different to any

other quiet, residential street. His voice choking, Mr Ammerman told the congregation Christmas Eve a decade ago when he sat in the same pew, Dryfesdale cemetery's garden

"trying to figure out what in of remembrance. There he left was a "simple but powerful" God's name was happening". His brother Tommy, who worked for an Arab-owned Am flight 103.

His body was found later on friends and seen the town's the lonely hillside at Tunderphysical scars heal over. Sher- garth, four miles from the town in vain". where the aircraft's nose cone fell. Now Mr Ammerman feels able to bring his daughters ory from a loving brother". Christine, 21, and Megan, 19, to Scotland to see the town's memorials to the dead.

Mr Ammerman later began at Holy Trinity church of the an emotional pilgrimage around Lockerbie, starting at

a bouquet at the memorial inscribed with the names of the victims, and ran his fingers shipping line, had been on Pan over his brother's name as he said a few words in private.

The card on the bouquet

read: "Tommy, you did not die Mr Ammerman said another card read: "In loving mem-

Afterwards he said: "In 10 years I have said a lot of things, but today in church and here it is for me personally the most personal and emotional day

for 10 years." He said that the memorial

one for the 270 victims.

Revealing that he had spobrother, Mr Ammerman said: "I said, 'You didn't die in vain, we the pair serving any sentence have done the best we can. in a Scottish jail, if convicted is We're not finished yet but we are near a trial'."

Mr Ammerman hopes that his next trip will be to the Netherlands where, if the Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi hands them over, the two suspects will stand trial under Scottish law. Agreement to a trial in a third country had "boxed the colonel in", according to Mr Ammerman.

He is anxious that the British and American governments do nothing to give Libya a pretext not to hand over the suspects. Western insistence on

one big area of concern. The bombardment of Baghdad could also damage prospects for a trial.

Mr Ammerman said he could not quarrel with the action taken by the US and Britain over Iraq, but he admitted "selfishly" he thought it was a setback and was likely to delay any hand-over and arrest of the suspects.

# Prescott ire over Lib-Lab deals

BY ANDREW GRICE Political Editor

JOHN PRESCOTTS simmering anger at Tony Blair's decision to forge closer links with the Liberal Democrats boiled over in public yesterday.

The Deputy Prime Minister said: "I am not a great fan of it myself. I think if you have a majority of 179, you get on with delivering the promises."

Interviewed on BBC1's Breakfast With Frost, he defended Mr Blair's discussions with Paddy Ashdown over constitutional reform but deliberately stopped short of backing their recent agreement to extend it to other policy issues.

"We are a separate party." he said. "I am not a great man for coalitions." Asked if he might end up sitting in the same Cabinet as Mr Ashdown, Mr Prescott replied bluntly: "Not under the way I have described it."

The Deputy Prime Minister's comments will not come as a surprise to Mr Blair. At a Christmas party for Labour staff, Mr Prescott is said to have joked that the party would turn into the Nouveau Democrats in 10 years. But Mr Blair will be worried that his deputy has publicly voiced his doubts. They emerged as Mr Ashdown faced a fresh burst of criticism from his party's ranks over his agreement with Mr Blair to extend cooperation between the parties.

In a pamphlet published today by the Centre for Reform think-tank, two senior Liberal Democrat figures expressed fears that the party will lose its distinctive identity.

Lord Wallace, a frontbench spokesman on foreign affairs. also said that although Mr Blair's strategy sought to "absorb" the Liberal Democrats, he believed the final destinations of the two parties would remain separate.

Neil Stockley, the Liberal Democrats' former director of policy said: "The [Liberal Democratl party must develop its own distinctive, branded political message."



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# **RUC** sweeps waste ground for corpses

POLICE IN Belfast have begun By DAVID MCKITTRICK a search for the bodies of two men, believed to have been abducted and killed by the IRA in the city 20 years ago.

Royal Ulster Constabulary officers yesterday broke up concrete steps at Glencolin Way, an area of open ground close to houses in the republican west Belfast district. This followed an investigation of the area on Saturday, when police used devices similar to minedetectors to scan the ground.

According to one unconfirmed report, the search followed a telephone tip-off to a relatives' group, which may

have come from the IRA The development has raised hopes of progress in finding the bodies of more than a dozen people missing since the Seventies, who have come to be known as "the disappeared".

Ireland Correspondent

The present operation is a search for the bodies of Brian McKinney, 22, and John Mc-Clory, 18, who vanished in west Belfast in 1978. They are assumed to have been killed and buried by the IRA.

McKinney's mother Margaret, said: "The search gives me some hope and I prefer this to nothing - at least something is being done. But I am wary of being too hopeful. I have been left shattered too many times

in the past.
"I do feel that Brian is buried somewhere in that area and I hope that this search will bring results. I just want his body to be found. I want to be like every other mother of victims of the Troubles, to have a grave that I can visit and tend.

Many families of the disappeared have been involved in a four-year campaign, pressing the IRA to reveal where their relatives are buried, but progress has been slow.

The IRA recently admitted that the burials had caused "incalculable anguish to their families" but claimed that pinpointing the graves was extremely difficult because of changes in IRA leadership, the deaths of some of its members and the passage of time.

More than 170 paramilitary prisoners, both loyalist and republican, will be released from prison this week for the annual 10 days' home leave. With more than 200 already freed under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, this means that fewer than 100 inmates will remain behind bars

# Archbishop attacks Dome

THE MILLENNIUM Dome is a symbol of man's arrogance that contrasts starkly with the humble birth of Christianity 2,000 years ago, the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, said yesterday.

The Archbishop made an impassioned attack on the controversial project, calling for Christians to remember the

humble origins of Christmas. Dr Hope drew a contrast between the nativity and what

BY CATHY COMERFORD

of man" which he said the Dome represents. "What a stark contrast there is here with the way in which it is proposed we are to celebrate in a year's time the second millennium of this birth," he said in a

newspaper interview,

The great humility of the manger has now become the hubris of a dome, a dome to celebrate the apotheosis of man he calls the "self-glorification rather than the glory of God ...

"The celebration and preparation for the second millennium of the Saviour's birth ought to be a ... recognition of our human fragility, frailty and

His words are likely to inflame feelings among some Christians that the Dome lacks a Christian emphasis.

Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, appeared unmoved by the latest Dome row yesterday and was said to be fully supportive of the project.

## IN BRIEF

Branson balloon dodges storms AFTER SURVIVING a night of fierce storms, the Virgin

entrepreneur Richard Branson and his crew soared over central Asia last night heading for the Himalayas on day three of their attempt to circle the globe in a balloon. "Somebody was looking over us last night," Mr Branson said. "We not only missed the storm but also missed Iraq by 60 miles, Iran by seven miles and Russia by 10 miles."

### Police car swept away in flood

TWO POLICE officers escaped injury when their patrol car was washed away in a flash flood in Cornwall on Saturday night. The officers climbed out of a window and on to the roof of their car after it was swept 100 metres downstream in the Gweek area. They then managed to leap to dry land. The car reportedly filled with water.

#### Nobel prizewinner dies at 84 PROFESSOR ALAN Hodgkin, one of Britain's most

distinguished biologists, has died aged 84, his family said yesterday. Sir Alan won the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1963 with Professor Andrew Huxley and Sir John Eccles. They discovered how nerve cells transmit electrical impulses from the skin to the brain and back again.

#### **Mummified body found in Suffolk** A MAN'S BODY found at a beauty spot was murnmified and

he may have been dead for years, detectives said yesterday. The man, thought to be in his twenties, was found on Friday at Fen Meadow Park, Woodbridge, Suffolk, A postmortem examination failed to uncover any obvious cause of death and officers have no idea of the man's identity.

Five share £11.8m lottery prize THE WINNING numbers in Saturday night's National Lottery £11.8m jackpot draw were 9, 10, 18, 25, 28, 48, with 34 the bonus. Five entries shared the first prize, winning

## STEVEN BERKOFF



Madness for actors is par for the course, but great actors are extremely sane

N THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

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# Rattle to quit Labour's musical desert



Sir Simon Rattle: 'We spend our time jumping through hoops trying to prove our right to exist'

greatest living conductor and an outspoken critic of Labour's policy towards arts funding, has revealed that he intends to

leave the country. Sir Simon, 43, who left the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) in August, has previously voiced his frustration at the low priority given to music teaching in schools and the paucity of arts funding.

The conductor's plans for his future are disclosed in Simon Rattle: Moving On, a BBC2 documentary to be broadcast next Sunday. During an interview he said: "I wouldn't be surprised if, whatever the next job I took on, it was not here in Britain. There are a lot of extraordinary things happening in Europe, where they have the facilities to do it."

Friends of Sir Simon's, including the pianists Alfred Brendel and Imogen Cooper and the baritone Thomas Allen, also appear on the programme to talk

By JANE HUGHES

about the conditions that would encourage him to stay.

The conductor's comments have been interpreted by arts world insiders as an attempt to put pressure on the Government for more resources. In reabity, there are few jobs in British classical music that would suit such a high-profile and independently minded figure and Sir Simon already has freelance commitments around the world. Socculation about his future has been rife since he left the CBSO after 18 years. The Berlin Philharmonic has been a possibility but it is unlikely to offer him the post of musical director unless sure he would accept.

The Vienna Philharmonic. with whom he has agreed a recording and touring deal. is another possibility. The orchestra's £10m annual grant is five times the public subsidy awarded to the four London ormusical directorship post.

Sir Simon was also linked to the cash-strapped Royal Opera House before the current musical director, Bernard Haitink, decided to rescind his resigna-

tion and stay on another year. All the American orchestras are desperate to woo him: last year, the Philadelphia Orchestra said it would have loved to hire him and Cleveland offered to build him an opera house. But working in the United States would be unlikely to offer Sir Simon the free reign in programming that he enjoyed in Birmingham and which allowed him to turn the orchestra into a world-class act.

As Curtis Price, the principal of the Royal Academy of Music, pointed out, one of Sir Simon's greatest achievements has been to build up a koyal public "with 100 per cent capacity in most concerts, however adventurous the programming". Against a backdrop of falling London audiences, his departure would be a massive blow to the international standing of British classical music. Indeed a group of his supporters have become so concerned that they want to create a new concert hall and orches-

tra to encourage him to stay. Sir Simon warned recently: "Running a British orchestra is wonderful but very hard. We spend our time jumping through hoops trying to prove our right to exist at all."

Recently his vision of a millennium arts festival in Birmingham came under threat as the Millennium Commission and the Arts Council backed away from providing more than 56m in funding for the project.

Wherever the conductor goes, however, he is unlikely to sever all links with Britain. A post in Berlin would take less than six months a year and he is scheduled for appearances in Birmingham until 2003.

## THE ARTISTIC OPPOSITION

Andrew Lloyd Weber was said to have threatened to leave Britain if Labour won the ecection, a claim he denied. Lord Lloyd-Weber, composer of a string of West End hits, including Evita and Cats, was angered by an early day

was an incentive to vote Labour.

motion claiming his reported intention

theatre directors, is heading for Los Angeles to direct a Shakespeare season after his bid for £500,000 Arts Council funding for the Old Vic was turned down, Sir Peter was

Sir Peter Hall, one of

Britain's greatest

apparently told that there was already "enough serious theatre in London".

pop group Blur was among the cream or Cool Britannia's music industry who turned against the Government in the

New Musical Express Labour's policy on

further education and the Welfare to Work plans among others.

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# Memory is damaged by ecstasy

THE FIRST evidence has By STEVE CONNOR emerged of long-term memory damage caused by ecstasy, the drug taken by thousands of

A study of ecstasy users in the United States found that they suffered significant memory loss several weeks after they stopped taking the drug.

"Our study shows ecstasy can be associated with memory damage." said Karen Bolla, associate professor of neurology at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Centre in Baltimore.

"The main message is that heavy use of ecstasy can affect emory and these effects can persist after it has left the body," Dr Bolla said.

ecstasy users with a group of structurally similar to mescayoungsters who had never taken the drug and found that drug, and amphetamine, which the users suffered a significantly impaired ability to recall

what they had seen or heard. Those who took part had to be drug free for at least two weeks before being tested to ensure that withdrawal symptoms did not affect the results. which are to be published in the journal Neurology.

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George Ricaurte, another member of the Johns Hopkins team, said all types of memory were affected. "Tests show that heavy ecstasy users have damage to their visual and verbal memory," he said.

Visual memory allows a person to recall objects they had seen earlier and verbal memory is the ability to remember information read aloud.

"Men were affected more than women, which may be due to differences in the way the brain works in the two sexes or don't yet know is how long-term because of hormonal influ-

Science Editor

ences, such as oestrogen having a protective influence," Professor Bolla said.

The study linked heavy ecstasy use with a fall in serotonin levels, a crucial chemical messenger in the brain. Professor Bolla said they defined heavy users as those who took more than one ecstasy pill a week.

An analysis of the cerebral spinal fluid of users showed that ecstasy can damage the nerve cells in the brain that produce serotonin, which regulates memory as well as mood, appetite perception, pain, sexual activity and sleep, Professor Bolla said.

Ecstasy, the common name The scientists compared 24 for the chemical MDMA, is line, a natural hallucinogenic acts as a stimulant.

> People who take ecstasy say they experience euphoria and happiness but the drug is also associated with feelings of lethargy and depression. It has been linked with a number of deaths in otherwise healthy young people.

> A recent survey found that 13 per cent of university students had taken ecstasy, which first became popular on the clubbing scene in 1989.

> Professor Andy Parrott, head of psychology at the University of East London, told a conference in London earlier this month that the more the drug is studied, the more problems are uncovered.

"The strands of evidence we can pull together suggest that MDMA may indeed be neurotoxic for humans. What we those problem are," he said.



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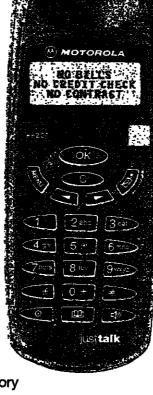
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# Briton jailed over heroin faces retrial

A BRITISH woman who tried to BY CATHY COMERFORD smuggle heroin out of Pakistan is facing the possibility of a further 10 years in a Karachi jail - despite having already served her prison sentence.

The Foreign Office is investigating the case of Rosemarie Morley, 31, a single mother. She was due to return to Britain earlier this month after her time in orison. Her treatment at the hands of the Paktry her again for the same crime, is a violation of human rights, international law and Pakistan's constitution, say British legal campaigners.

Ms Morley and her boyfriend, Markus Mifad, both from London, were caught at Karachi airport with 2.8kg of heroin each in July last year. The drugs were hidden in the

mechanism of their suitcases. Although the couple insisted they did not know what the packages in their luggage contained, they pleaded guilty to smuggling the drugs, believing their sentences would be lighter. Ms Morley, who suffers from clinical depression, was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison but had been due for early release on 11 December, after winning remission for teaching English to children in Karachi Juvenile Jail where she is held.

In September this year she learnt that she was to be charged again over the same incident, but this time with ssession of drugs, rather than smuggling. Rana Shamim, her legal rep-

resentative in Karachi, said the charges had been brought under a new Pakistani law, ticularly concerned for Rose-

in particulates, one of the most

of soot and other matter can col-

lect deep in the lungs. They are

thought to trigger up to 8,000

premature deaths a year in

the UK alone in people with res-

The principal source of par-

In Brussels today the Envi-

ronment minister. Michael

Meacher will be urging his

piratory and heart diseases.

ticulates is diesel engines in lor-

ries, buses and coaches.

harmful air pollutants.

which allows for someone who has been convicted of drug smuggling to be charged with possession and the case regis-

tered a second time. Mr Shamim said: "We are challenging this in the High Court as a direct violation of the constitution. This law has not yet been tested but it contravenes article 13a of the constiistani authorities, who plan to tution, which says no person shall be prosecuted or pun-

Rosemarie Morley: Could

be jailed for second time

Fair Trials Abroad, which is

campaigning on Ms Morley's

behalf, said: "It is established

in British and international law

again for the same offence."

nationals and Europeans had

than once."

BRITAIN WILL today propose a By Michael McCarthy

massive Europe-wide cutback Environment Correspondent

thinking it would get it over with, and got 10 years. "We are afraid this might happen to Rosemarie. " A second British national Mark Cornish, 37, also convicted of smuggling heroin, could face a second charge despite, having already served 18

months in jail. His mother, Shirley Dun-ning, from Carshalton in Surrey, said: "He was sentenced to four years but got remission.

marie Morley because I

understand she has been clin-

ically depressed and because

she is a single parent," he said.

son, Matthew, has been staying

with his grandparents Eric and

Lorna in London. The family

had expected her to be home for Christmas. Mr Morley, 67, said: "She is a bit headstrong, but she

is a good girl, a good mother.

"We were all geared up to having her home. Then we

heard about this other girl who

pleaded guilty a second time.

Ms Morley's eight-year-old

"But there are others."

"I phoned the consulate to try to get a release date and they said, 'Don't bother. As soon as he is released he will be rearrested'.

A Foreign Office spokesman ished for the same crime more said: "We are aware of the cases of Rosemarie Morley and Stephen Jakobi, founder of Mark Cornish. We do not believe that it is good criminal justice practice to try two similar offences arising out of the same facts separately.

"We need to determine exactly what Rosemarie and He added that other British Mark are charged with and if and how these charges differ suffered similar miscarriages of from the previous charges and justice in Pakistan. "I am paralso why they are now being charged with these offences."

Call to cut diesel damage called for a further 50 per cent cutback by 2005. But Britain wants the further reduction to counterparts from other EU be even tougher at 80 per cent. heavy vehicle industries, espe-

new particulate limits, which would mean special emissionscially Italy, are likely to oppose the plan on the grounds that it reduction technology fitted to all would be too expensive and difnew heavy diesel-engined veficult. But the Government believes the technology already Europe's green ministers exists to allow it and says it is are already likely to agree that there should be a 30 per cent not prohibitively expensive. Also on the agenda will be cutback on the current levels of

tough new limits for another heavy vehicle pollutant, oxides of nitrogen, known as Nox.

Climbers hanging from the central lantern of Worth Abbey, near Crawley in West Sussex. Monks at the Benedictine abbey, designed by Francis Pollen, have been unable to clean the windows or the crucifix since the lantern was completed in 1974

Nasa probe approaches asteroid

An artist's impression of

THE FINAL approach has begun to put a spacecraft in orbit around an asteroid for the first time, in a manoeuvre that could one day result in robots mining the mineral-rich rocks of space.

It will also be used to test ways of landing rockets on asteroids that are in danger of col-liding with Earth, to shift them into safer orbits.

Scientists from the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) yesterday fired the rocket engines of space probe flying beyond Mars to accelerate it towards its final target: Eros, an asteroid the size of London.

By the end of next month the Near spacecraft will have come alongside its quarry and begun the complex series of manoeu- enough to pose a threat if they came within 400,000 miles of There have been fly-bys and the probe back into space. vres designed to bring it within a few miles of the surface. £138m, will for the next 12 months photograph, measure, monitor and map Eros from orbit to make it the most studied asteroid to date.

At the end of the year-long mission, in the first weeks of the new millennium. Nasa scientists hope to bring the probe to within a few feet of Eros, and even test land it on the asteroid's rock-hard surface.

BY STEVE CONNOR

The most difficult part of the mission began yesterday with a main engine burn to accelerate the spacecraft towards a rendezvous with the fastermoving asteroid.

Carl Pilcher, a Nasa scientist, said that knowing more about asteroids and how to approach them may one day be useful if the Earth is ever threatened by a collision. "It is prudent to learn the properties of these objects, if one day we find one with our name on it and we have to do something about it." he said. Scientists estimate there are

ever hit the planet: A small as-teroid just 33ft wide exploded over the Tunguska region of Siberia in 1908, destroving over half a million acres of forest. In 1989, an asteroid 0.25 miles wide about 1,500 asteroids that pass close enough to Earth and are big and weighing 50 million tons Earth, passing the same point in space just six hours apart.

Eros, a potato-shaped body 25 miles long and 9 miles wide, is 240 million miles away and poses no threat to Earth. But it offers scientists the best opportunity to find out more about the mysterious lumps of rock

Eros is an S-type asteroid composed of silicates enriched with metallic iron, The analysis of its composition will help to determine the part it played in the birth and evolution of the solar system, said Professor William Boynton, a Near scientist at Ari-

zona University. "This is the first time ever a snapshots, but not much in the way of quantitative scientific data," he said. 1

Robert Farquhar, of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where some of the Near instruments were built. said: "What we know of asteroids is very limited. But now left over from the formation of the planets. we're going to go into orbit around an asteroid and study it intensely for a year. We expect to get astounding information.

Although Eros is 240 million miles from Earth, the Near probe has travelled more than 1.5 billion miles since its launch in February 1996. It has flown an indirect route, which included a return trip to Earth to use the planet's gravitational spacecraft will orbit an asteroid. pull as a "slingshot" to throw



hicles in Europe by 2005.

particulate emissions from new vehicles from 2000, and the

European Parliament has

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#### MILLENNIUM **BUG WATCH**



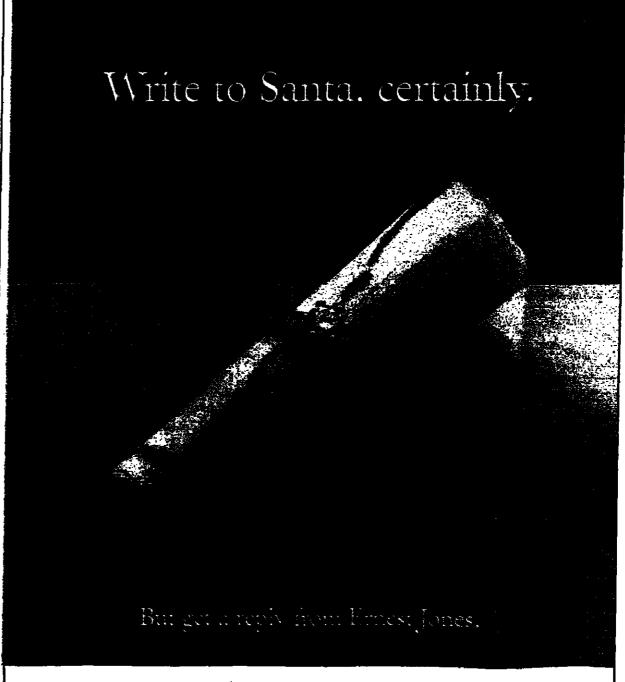
companies is whether their suppliers and customers will be "millennium compliant". This has led to a blizzard of post as companies send letters to anyone whose address is on any of their databases demanding to know how, when and for how long they will be able to deal with the years beyond 1999.

A few of those letters have arrived on this desk and immediately been filed in the bin. But some firms have been responsive. A notable letter comes from Ahead Software, about its Nero software, and was reported by Computing magazine. "Nero will properly process dates beyond 31 December 1999," the letter began. "However, Dos will not be able to read CDs with file dates beyond 32 December 1999 correctly. The file date will be displayed incorrectly. This is a Dos problem and not

Quite. But is it more or less worrying that the letter was signed by a human rather than being entirely computer-generated? CHARLES ARTHUR

caused by Nero."

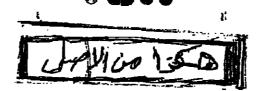
Tips, tales to: bug@independent.co.uk

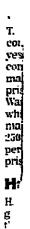


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**Ernest Jones** 

THE DIAMOND & WATCH SPECIALIST





# My day-long ordeal as a 75-year-old

I THOUGHT, the morning after the Christmas office party, that I knew what it was like to be 75. But that was before I was given an old age makeover, designed by gerontologists.

In a few moments, using cheap and easily available materials, they took me, a 37-yearold man, and transformed me into a vulnerable, isolated old person, fumbling at the simplest of tasks.

For any man, hoping not to turn into his father, it was a depressing experience. It left me feeling that there is no escape from that fate. But it was also illuminating. I understood a little better what life is like for my dad. I'll be less critical in

We started with the eyes. Anne Parr, from Age Concern, which supplies the ageing kits, fitted me with goggles, which gave me tunnel vision. It is, she said, a common handicap, springing from high blood pressure or a stroke.

To this she added a weighted strap around my right wrist. simulating loss of muscle strength and another around my left ankle as though, after a stroke, that side had become slightly leaden.

A double pair of surgical gloves helped me to appreciate a diminished sense of touch that comes with age as well as making my joints stiffen as the gloves warmed up.

And the final element was ear plugs. "From 25," explained Ms Parr, "there is a slight loss of pitch and tone, but it is so gradual that you don't notice it." I certainly noticed the ear plugs. It was not just that conversation around me was muffled. I felt cut off from Ms Parr and our photographer as I caught snippets of the conversation about as well as if I was lying head down in the bath. And, as I withdrew, lost in concentrating on what was going on, they seemed to ignore me, like some old person, passive,

in the corner We ventured out. The plan was to test myself on Oxford Street and buy a dressing gown, my Christmas present for my dad, who is 78. I thought, if I could step into his skin for also choose his attire as well.

of the side at a swimming pool The light seemed so bright, a complaint that many older people have, explained Ms Part, which is why so many wear shaded glasses. And I couldn't tell immediately where either she or the photographer was, lost in the melee around me. The combination of poor vision and muffled hearing made the world seem unsafe. Edging on to a zebra crossing was an act of faith. I began to understand why older people stay in their homes, take refuge in

busy life I take for granted. I also gained a glimpse behind those grim old faces you sometimes see walking purposefully, head down, along the street, oblivious to all around them. I had always assumed that illness, grief or simply fear of death had etched such a humourless expression on some

familiarity and how brave those

are who boldly carry on with the

But there is another factor determination. When you cannot hear or see properly and your limbs don't seem to coordinate quite as they should. you become single-minded. I found myself staring at the pavement, making sure that I didn't trip. There was no time to window-shop, admire the crispness of the day, look at the Christmas lights or flirt with a beautiful woman

I know London's Tube stations well and travel on them daily. Yet that grim determination also seemed necessary to counter a sense of disorientation, as I searched for the right escalator, as I was jostled by rushing younger people. Even finding the right money for the fare was a problem, as my gloved hands couldn't distinguish the coins in my pocket. Had I just dropped a tenner on the ground? I wondered, peering around my feet like Mr

to buy the dressing gown seemed vast and mysterious as I searched for some indication of where the men's clothing department was (I now know why my dad just sends cheques at

Fortunately, Ms Parr was there to guide me through the hubbub, as I grew increasingly into one of those apparently passive, dependent, elderly people who seem to have handed over their lives to a more youthful companion.

As it happened, we had wasted our time. I could not tell, by touch, the difference between a silk dressing gown and a

cheap cotton one. 'Can we stop for coffee," I asked, echoing my father's words whenever he goes shopping. The relief of sitting down and becoming orientated was wonderful. Yet as I ate my pastry I had no idea whether I was spilling crumbs down my front and humiliating myself

Ms Parr, who uses the "Through Other Eyes" kit on company executives to give them insight into their customers, reassured me that it isn't quite this bad to be infirm. It happens slowly, she said. You adapt gradually.

But as I took a breather on my way home and chatted to Alan Burley, 73, on a day trip to Oxford Street from Hull, I could only admire his courage and determination. "You're a hero," I



A prematurely aged Jack O'Sullivan discovering the problems of coping with tunnel vision on London's escalators



# Earliest church discovered in Red Sea port

ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE dis- By DAVID KEYS covered the world's oldest Archaeology Correspondent known purpose-built church and are predicting even older lection box with coins. "The disnes will be found in the future. The discovery, in the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba. pushes back Christian architectural history by several decades. Built between 293 and 303, the building pre-dates the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and the Church of there were many more such the Nativity in Bethlehem, both

built in the late 320s. The Agaba church is the first purpose-built Christian place of worship discovered from the period before Christianity found favour with the Roman imperial government. Indeed, it pre-dates the greatest of all the Roman anti-Christian persecutions, which was carried out in the reign of Diocletian in 303-313.

Constructed in the form of a large east-west oriented basilica, with apse and aisles, the railding also had a narthex chancel screen as well as an adjoining cemetery. Excavations have unearthed walls up to 4.5 metres high and a col-

covery is very significant for the history of Christian architecture and of Christianity itself." said the director of the excavation. Professor Thomas Parker, of North Carolina State University. Historical texts indicate that

churches built, according to Professor Parker. "It is quite possible, even likely, that other late third-century churches may soon be discovered." Likely locations include An-

tioch, Ephesus and Nicomedia (all now in Turkey), Sidon and Tyre (Lebanon), and Alexandria and Carthage (North Africa). Aqaba church appears to have been abandoned during

the great persecution of 303-313. then refurbished sometime between 313 and 330. It was destroyed by an earthquake in 363. During its first phase, the church would have held about 60 worshippers. After the Great Persecution, phase two would

have allowed it to hold up to 100.



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# 'Peas for votes' storm as St Petersburg goes to polls

THIS IS a very bad time to be a liberal democrat in Russia. By PHIL REEVES in Moscow

Take several incidents over the past few days alone: a school in the Urals has unveiled a bust of Stalin: Communists have been clamouring for the return of the monument to Felix Dzerzhinsky, the ruthless founder of the KGB, outside the Lubyanka in downtown Moscow: the mayor of Moscow.

Yuri Luhkov, a leading presidential candidate, held a weekend congress of his new political party (Fatherland) and announced the era of radical liberal reforms was dead. "The experiment is over," he declared. The liberal democrats themselves - a mixed bag ranging

teers to genuine liberals – are in shock caused by the murder a month ago of one of their leading lights in parliament, Galina Starovoitova, adviser to Boris Yeltsin in the perestroika era. Their influence has shrivelled. And anti-Semites have been

consolidate gains made after the assassination of Ms Starospouting freely in parliament. voitova. Outrage at her murder And yet there is one small was one reason for an unprecedentedly high turn-out of 40 corner of hope, in what used to

intelligentsia.

a seedbed for Russia's liberal

burg. Yesterday saw the second round of municipal elections in anti-communist liberals - notathe city - which is, by tradition, bly the Yabloko Party - did well. Underlying this was imnationce with runaway corruption and crime in St Petersburg. Democrats were hoping to which has seen repeated as-

may give democrats a rare cause for celebration, the campaign itself has not. The elections have been marred by some of the dirtiest tactics witnessed in Russian politics. sassinations and the evolution There were allegations that of mafia-style criminal gangs pensioners were given tins of who control a large section of peas for votes; phantom canbusiness, including cemeteries. didates with the same names as der, most of their leading lights

per cent in the election's first But, while the election regenuine participants appeared round on 6 December, when the sults, expected early today, on ballot papers. Smears and counter-smears abounded.

Whatever the outcome, the so-called democratic camp has a long way to go if it is to do well in national parliamentary elections next year and - crucially - make a credible challenge for the presidency in 2000.

After the Starovoitova mur-

-former prime ministers Kegor Gaidar and Sergei Kiriyenko, and leading ex-ministers Anatoly Chubais, Boris Federov and Boris Nemtsov - an-

nounced a coalition. However, a key figure has refused to play ball, Yabloko's leader Grigory Yaviinsky. While he stands apart, the liberal democratic vote, or what's left of it, could be dangerously split.

# **Expats** fight for justice in Italy

EXPATRIATE LECTURERS in By Frances Kennedy Italy say universities are continuing to flout European Union employment law on pay and rights, despite court rulings and an official reprimand from Brussels. They say rather than grant them parity with Italians, universities from Trento to Catania are trying to force them to take pay cuts and sign away their acquired rights. They are being told that if they refuse there will be job losses and restructuring.

Foreign language lecturers have been battling for more than a decade for recognition that they are not just colourful figures there to lend a hand to sion. Several times he has the real teachers and a touch of authenticity to language courses. In most Italian uni- is still waiting to see his legal versities they carry out 90 per cent of the teaching, plus writing, supervising and marking of the estimated 1,500 foreign exams. But many of them net as little as one million lire involved in legal proceedings. (£357) a month, as opposed to "The ridiculous thing is that the three million lire of a native even Italian judges have upheld

the personnel office within 48 hours and sign new contracts, which drastically curtailed their salaries and rights. Failure to do so would mean their employment was terminated," said David Petrie, a tenacious Scot, the founder and president of the Association for the Defence of Foreign Lecturers.

From his home in Verona, Mr Petrie directs an incessant flow of faxes, letters, press releases and legal challenges. Over the years his pursuit of justice has become an obsestaken to court his own university in Verona – and won – but victory translated into reality. He is not alone. About 1,000

our claims but the university

in Rome

added Mr Petrie. language lecturers in Italy are

"One of the most recent boards and rectors simply at the European Court of Jusbreaches was at the Università refuse to comply. The ministry tice in 1995, established that, be-Frederico II in Naples where 19 says the universities are aucause Italian lecturers had letter telling them to report to sity back in Britain would ever nationals should have the social security contributions. Ministry for Universities pre-status and conditions, other also our students," he said. I threat of Nato air strikes



David Petrie, a Scot working in Verona, who is challenging the Italian government over the rights of foreign lecturers

claim they were above the law,"

The trials and tribulations of the lettore stranieri go back some years. Foreigners were traditionally employed on annual renewable contracts until their case became a test of EU credibility, regarding the equal treatment of European nationals within each state.

The foreign lecturers won two landmark rulings. The first,

same. "After the 1995 ruling, the authorities simply shifted the goalposts. They offered us new open-ended contracts but for a different job. We are no longer lecturers but collaboratori linguistici, linguistic collaborators, on worse wages and conditions than before," Mr Petrie said. In 1996 14 lecturers in Salerno were fired for refusing to sign new contracts.

The second sentence declared that the lecturers had been discriminated against and not hesitate to proceed with were entitled to back pay in-

A year ago, the European Commission decided to bring a case against Italy before the European Court of Justice regarding the acquired rights of the lecturers. In September, the Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, Padraig Flynn, warned Italy that if "swift and comprehensive action" was not taken to bring foreign lecturers' contracts into line with European

law "the Commission would

sented a letter sent to all rectors urging them to fall into line. Yet in a separate note to state lawyers last month, it said the European Commission was well disposed towards 'definitively closing the case' or in layman's terms, dropping it," said Mr Petrie.

Commission has no intention of letting things slip and at a 2 December meeting it agreed to continue legal proceedings.

foreign lecturers are battling through the Italian union

"It's really getting out of hand," said John Gilbert, a New Yorker teaching in Florence and a member of CGIL, Italy's largest trade union. "University after university is resorting However, it appears that the to bully tactics. They put lecturers in a position where if they want their legally won rights to be respected they have to accept that another colleague While Mr Petrie and his 400- may lose his job through 'reodd followers hope a European structuring'. The overall losers are not or

# **Kosovo** fighters at mass funeral

BY PAUL WOOD

THE TROUBLED Serbian province of Kosovo saw more violence yesterday even as thousands of mourners turned out for the funeral of 36 ethnic Alpanians killed in a border clash with the security forces.

The burials came at the end of a week of violence, which has claimed the lives of at least 46 people. In the latest clash yesterday, Serbian sources said that two ethnic Albanians were wounded and four arrested after firing on a police patrol from a passing car.

show

About one thousand fighters of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) were among the several thousand ethnic Albanian mourners who went to the tiny village of Poljance for the funeral. The authorities said the men shot were KLA members trying to smuggle weapons into the province. Soon after that incident, six young Serbs were shot dead in a bar in the western city of Pec, and the Serbian deputy mayor of Kosovo Polje was killed

Serbs in Kosovo yesterday demanded the return of the security forces withdrawn under the threat of Nato air strikes in October, to protect them. They ended three days of protest in the capital, Pristina, after an announcement that the Serbian Interior Minister would visit later today to hear their demands.

Western diplomats largely blame the rebel KLA, not the Serbs, for the increased tension in Kosovo. One official said it was clear the KLA had been moving steadily to take advantage of the

# Matador legend dies, aged 66

SPAIN WAS in mourning yes- BY ELIZABETH NASH terday for Antonio Ordonez, in Madrid one of the last great matadors of bullfighting's golden age of of their hero in his suit of lights. the 1950s and 1960s, a friend of Orson Welles and an inspiration Peruvian writer Mario Vargas for Ernest Hemingway.

front-page coverage to Ordon- were among hundreds who ez's death on Saturday: one, La paid their respects at Seville Razon, relegated Clinton's im- town hall, where his body was peachment to the foot of the laid in state yesterday. The page in favour of a sepia photo Duchess's daughter married

Government ministers, the Llosa and Spain's grandest Spanish newspapers gave grandee, the Duchess of Alba,

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dor Francisco Rivera Ordonez. Also Rises. When Ordonez inr in October in a ceremony broadcast live on state television and billed as the social

and 27 serious injuries in nearly 30 years, it was cancer that killed Ordonez at the age of 66. Born in Ronda in 1932, he was the son of a bullfighter. Nino de la Palma, who was the hero of

Sofia

mafia

killed

ONE OF the reputed leaders of

the Bulgarian mafia was

gunned down early yesterday at a villa near the capital, Sofia,

Ivo Karamanski, 39, had

joined a party when a quarrel

among guests ended in a

shootout, police said. Mr Karamanski and his bodyguard died

at the scene. Two other guests

were wounded. Police later

Mr Karamanski, a former na-

tional rowing champion, ran a

prosperous insurance compa-

ny. In 1986 he was sentenced to

two years in jail for fraud. He

was believed to be a key figure

Despite his reputation, Mr Karamanski maintained good

connections with police and judiciary officials. He once cel-ebrated release from detention

by having a cup of coffee in public with the state prosecutor.

of criminal groups set up and

controlled by former athletes. In

the nine years since Bulgaria

threw off Communist rule,

many former sports stars have

gone from being legitimate

bodyguards to operating shady

'security' services.

He was among the founders

in Bulgaria's underworld.

arrested a 33-year-old man.

boss

police reported.

Ronda declared three days event of the year. Despite countless gorings of official mourning, and blackdraped flags flew at half-mast.

Ordonez is to be cremated today and his ashes scattered on the sand of Ronda bullring, the cradle of Spanish bullfighting.

Obituary, Review, page 6

met the writer, he asked: "Am I as good as my father?" Hem-

ingway replied: "You're better."



Ordonez: Countless gorings and 27 serious injuries

## IN BRIEF

'Bin Laden aide' sent to the US A SUSPECTED senior aide of Osama bin Laden, the Saudi

millionaire accused of organising the bombings at US embassies in East Africa this summer, was turned over to American officials at Munich airport last night for extradition to the US. A spokesman for the Bavarian Justice Ministry said Mamdouh Mahmud Salim was taken from Stadelheim prison in Munich to the airport and handed over to the Americans.

Israel freezes West Bank transfer

THE ISRAELI Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, won cabinet agreement yesterday for the suspension of peace moves with the Palestinians, setting the scene for a showdown in parliament. There was one abstention to a proposal to freeze the hand-over of West Bank land outlined in the United States-brokered Wye River accord.

Prince accuses 'captive' women

TEN SERVANTS of a Saudi prince, Turki bin Abdel Aziz a brother of King Fahd - threw a note from their Cairo hotel window, saying they were being held captive. Yesterday eight of the Filipino women were arrested after the prince accused them of theft. They said the prince's allegation was provoked by their complaints.

Tent fire kills 165 buffaloes

A TOTAL of 165 buffaloes and four horses were killed when an electric short circuit set ablaze a grass tent built by nomads in Punjab state, 185 miles north of Delhi. The animals belonged to a man of the Gujjar tribe, which lives mainly in forests. The animals were all charred to death.



JOHN WALSH

#### 'Madam,' I replied coldly, **Aladdin is about as** Christmassy as the Sphinx'

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 5

# Islamists poised to take over in Turkey

TURKEY'S PRIME minister des- BY STEVE BRYANT ignate, Bulent Ecevit, warned yesterday that his failure to form a government would probably return the Islamist opposition to power.

Mr Ecevit acknowledged on Saturday that he had been unable to put together a coalition since the fall of the conservative-led government last month amid accusations of corruption. He predicted that the collapse of his talks with bick-

in Ankara

could bring back Islamists who were forced out of power 18 months ago by the military.

Mr Ecevit, whose talks ex-cluded parliament's largest group, the Muslim-oriented Virtue Party, said: "An interim government, most probably involving Virtue, will be formed."

Mr Ecevit, a secularist who regards Virtue's loyalty to ering parliamentary rivals Turkey's constitution as deeply the constitution. (Reuters)

would hand back the mandate to form a government to President Suleyman Demirel today.

Mr Demirel must now appoint someone else to form Turkey's sixth government since 1995. Any administration would probably only govern until April, when early elections are scheduled.

Virtue is the successor to the Welfare Party, outlawed in Jan-uary for attempting to subvert

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Thai performers staging a 'Light of Asia' show during the closing ceremony of the international Asian Games in Bangkok yesterday

# Show trial begins of China's top dissident

THE LEADING Chinese dissident still active on the mainland was scheduled for trial this morning in the heavily guarded Peking Number 1 Intermediate People's Court, one day after a labour activist who had served three years in a labour camp was unexpectedly par-

oled and exiled. Human rights activists branded the timing of Liu Nianchun's release as an attempt by Peking to deflect international criticism from its biggest crackdown in three years.

As 50-year-old Mr Liu and his family were bundled on to a NorthWest Airlines flight to the United States yesterday morn- Mr Xu will plead not guilty to g, the latest victim of the charges of inciting subversion,

suppression, Xu Wenli, was preparing for today's court appearance. Notice of the trial was given to Mr Xu's family only on Friday, leaving no time for the court-appointed lawyer to organise his defence.

This year, 55-year-old Mr Xu has become the elder mentor and focus for a disparate group of activists across China, many of whom have been involved in trying to register an independent China Democracy Party. Like two other activists whose brief trials were held last week,

but is bound to be convicted. The maximum penalty for the offence is life imprisonment, although no sentences have yet been announced.

In the late Seventies, Mr Xu was a Democracy Wall activist and has already spent 12 years in prison, mostly in solitary As he became more outspo-

ken over the course of this year, Mr Xu was taken in for questioning many times but, until his arrest on 30 November had been released within hours

In particular, Tony Blair was embarrassed during his October visit to the mainland when Mr Xu was detained briefly for

questioning, and British aides profile dissidents, Wang Dan hurriedly raised the matter and Wei Jingsheng. China now with their Chinese hosts. The current crackdown on

dissidents has left European Union governments on the defensive about their optimistic claims earlier this year that "constructive engagement" with China was helping to secure significant improvements in human rights.

The EU this spring controversially abandoned its annual attempt to censure China at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

The parole on medical grounds and exile of Mr Liu follows similar treatment since late 1997 for two other highing dissidents only if they immediately go into exile.

Mr Liu was arrested in 1995. when Peking clamped down on labour activists. The following year, his wife learnt he had been sentenced without trial to three years' "re-education through labour" in north-east China. That was subsequently extended by a year. As Mr Liu's health deteriorated, his wife, Chu Hailan, campaigned to bring his case to the attention of the outside world.

Mr Xu's wife. He Xintong. has been similarly fearless,

# Ding dong! Time for Christmas baksheesh

ON MY FRONT door in Nizamuddin, I have just hung up a huge red and green wreath. made from dried chilli peppers, to spice up my holiday mood and to discourage a marauding monkey who has been mooching around our neighbourhood.

He won't nibble on these Christmas goodies more than once, that's for sure.

Christmas Day is a national holiday in India when all offices shut, and Christmas Eve is one of the biggest nights for middle-class families to dine out, topped only by New Year's Eve.

Many Indians look forward to a Christmas bonus and Christmas break.

While politically correct friends send me their family photos stamped, inoffensively, "Season's Greetings" and the New Agers command me by e-mail to "Make it a peaceful Winter Solstice, man", I am mired in Christmas chaos here in the Indian capital.

Cultural fusion often sparks confusion, and this year we have the Islamic holy month of Ramadan coinciding with Chanukah, Christmas and the birthday of the 10th Sikh Guru, Gobind Singh.

To complicate matters even further, more than 10,000 bridegrooms, mounted on white steeds and each preceded by a brass band and a gaggle of relatives, hit the streets last week when the astrological alignment of the stars was declared especially auspicious for weddings.

But not to worry. Celebrating is what the denizens of Delhi do best.

The colder it is outside, the hotter the entertainment gets, and the mercury here

has dropped to a chilly 6C. Festive fairy lights sparkle in the hedges, whisky drinkers warm their hands around charcoal braziers and loudspeakers crackle at maximum volume.

Shahnaz, the melancholy eunuch, is sporting imported fluorescent green eyeshadow to make a bigger impact at the wedding parties he stalks. Because of so much winter

now too hoarse to sing out wishes for my continued pros-

CITY LIFE

blessings for cash. "What to do?" he shrugs. "My dancing is still there. And I thank Allah for this Ramadan fast. The nights come much quicker than in summer."

With two other hijras, who esemble pantomime dames on the skids. Shahnaz huddles in an open rickshaw and heads towards a wedding re-

ception down the road. The cloth sides of the shamiana, done up like an ersatz Taj Mahal, seem to



A Christmas tree spreads the word in Delhi

pulse to the beat of the band. There is no chance here to experience a truly Silent Night, with more than 10 million, mostly Hindu citizens making merry in the murky dark. Delhi certainly is no place to escape the worldwide Christmas commercialism. Holly and ivy may be scarce but the background music playing in the bazaars is usually disco Christmas carols. My doorbell chimes constantly with the arrival of sweepers, postmen and telephone linemen who demand

the foreign memsahib. Vendors arrive to hawk embroidered tablecloths. shawls or brass curios.

"Christmas baksheesh" from

Vast hampers of out-of-seafog, the hijra entertainer is son fruit are brought up, with ter at the markets, punctuated by paper star lanterns fashioned with a pop-up na-

tivity scene. These Christmas sentiments pre-date any nostalgia for the plum cakes and plummy voices of the British Raj and so many acquired customs make a curious mix.

Local Christians believe the Apostle Thomas rowed ashore in Madras. When the Jesuit missionary St Francis Xavier arrived in the 16th century, there already was a long-established church in India. Today, most of the Indian élite know every carol by heart after childhoods spent in English-language boarding schools run by Christian clergy. Satellite television whips up the frenzy even further.

Such enthusiasm may seem odd given that only about 2 per cent of Indians are Christians, but the birthday of Jesus is just one more reason for a party alongside these 25 million believers.

The Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Nataraja Centre, for instance, holds an annual Bible reading. Christmas feast and gift exchange for all its members and keeps room on the eclectic altar of idols for Christian icons.

The centre believes in pluralism - the more gods the merrier. Emanuel Baksee, a Christian convert, sets up a tiny manger scene every year and never leaves out three odd figures. Mingled with the wise men and shepherds are a plastic Santa. a small rubber Mahatma Gandhi with silver glitter on his loincloth, and a miniature Indira Gandhi, like Cruella De Vil in a sari.

Sometimes, the unfamiliar symbolism goes awry. I spied an extravagant wreath of bogus pine boughs that featured an especially grisly crucifix - all done up with a red satin bow that exactly matched the colour of the blood droplets.

But whether it's a "Merry -Christmas" or even a "Happy Krishna". I know every minor acquaintance in Delhi will phone me on Christmas Day

JAN MCGIRK

# Barbados prepares to ditch the Queen and elect a president

BARBADOS IS preparing to BY JAMES ROBERTS ditch the Queen as head of

state and become a republic. would follow the neighbouring former British colonies of Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Dominica if it accepted the recommendations of a new

Forde, the former foreign min-The Caribbean island, home ister, was appointed by the to 250,000 people in a territory Barbadian government to head 

He has delivered a 136-page report, which argues that Barbados should remain in the Commonwealth, but elect its own non-executive president to of Barbados that it can function constitutional report. Sir Henry serve for a seven-year term.

president, who should be at least 40 years old and a Barbadian, be chosen by an electoral college made up of the speaker of the House of Assembly, 14 MPs and 10 senators. Sir Henry said his recommendations reflected "a sense of maturity on the part

at the highest level".

has been submitted to Parliament, follows two years of consultation, which took evidence from Barbadians in Britain and North America as well as on the island itself.

Barbados enjoys a degree of economic and political stability which, combined with its natural and climatic charms, ensures that it remains a first

dustry has become the mainstay of the economy and the island's biggest foreign currency earner. Barbados has not developed a dependency culture and Sir Henry paid

Sir Henry's report, which choice tourist destination. islanders. Barbados was ca-Even though the tourist in- pable of properly managing all aspects of its national affairs, he insisted.

"We have had the experience of a succession of native governors, all but one of whom have been local Barbadians, ple's highest values and aspirations," he said last week.

most of the Barbadians interviewed felt strongly that the island should do away with the dence in 1966 after 350 years as tribute to the self-reliance of the and they have discharged their British Privy Council as the

decorum and reflected the peo- court could be replaced by a Caribbean court of appeals or a Barbadian court if that could Sir Henry revealed that not be set up within "a reasonable time".

Barbados gained indepen-

# Mortgages

## NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

The following interest rates for mortgages provided by Banking Direct, a Division of Bank of Scotland, will apply with effect from 4th January 1999 for both new and existing borrowers.

> **Banking Direct Mortgage Rate** (Variable) 7.69% per annum.

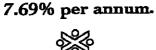
Centrebank Mortgage Rate (Variable) 7.69% per annum.

Stabilised Charging Rate 7.99% per annum.

Adaptable Mortgage Plan Charging Rate 7.85% per annum.

Banking Direct Mortgage Rate Plus (Variable) 8.19% per annum. Centrebank Mortgage Rate Plus

> (Variable) 8.19% per annum. Home Loan Rate



# BANK OF SCOTLAND®

BANKING DIRECT, EDINBURGH EH12 9DR

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# Rebels overrun diamond capital

BY ALLIEU IBRAHIM KAMARA in Freetown, Sierra Leone

REBELS OVERRAN the diamond capital of Koidu in the east of Sierra Leone on Saturday when West African and allied forces withdrew after fierce fighting, survivors and aid workers said on Sunday. In Freetown, the West African Ecomog troops told people to leave the Lumley

beach resort on Sunday as artillery fire could be heard in the distance, witnesses said. The rebels launched their attack on Koidu on Wednesday. but were initially beaten back by the Nigerian-led Ecomog troops supported by Kamajor

traditional hunters. "The battle continued until early yesterday when the Ecomog troops and Kamajors pulled back to the outskirts of the town," Alpha Jalloh, 45, a di-amond miner, told reporters in Freetown. He was shot in the leg in the fighting and was taken to the capital with other wounded by military helicopter. Ecomog officers said they withdrew to limit civilian casualties. "We are giving the civil-

then we will strike and crush the rebels," an officer said. Survivors in Freetown told of bodies lying in the streets. Aid workers said thousands of civilians had fled Koidu. (Reuters)

ians a few days to leave the town,

CHRISTOPHER MCEWEN, MANAGING DIRECTOR TENDRING CONSTRUCTION, NORTH EAST ESSEX.



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# BRIEFING

#### Fleming denies Commerzbank bid

ROBERT FLEMING, one of the UK's last remaining independent investment banks, yesterday moved to squash rumours that it had rejected a £3bn offer from Commerzbank because of opposition to a takeover from its founding family.

Weekend reports suggested that Commerzbank tabled a £22-a-share bid for Robert Fleming Group, nearly three times its current market value, in September. However, the reports said the bid was blocked by the Fleming family, which holds a 30 per

The bank has also been linked in recent weeks with ABN Amro, JP Morgan and Paribas. A spokesman for Robert Fleming said: "We have had no contact at all with Commerzbank. There has been no bid and no talks. We are not up for sale."

#### Champagne sales set to fizz



CONSUMPTION OF champagne is set to rise by a fifth next year as revellers celebrate the end of the millennium. According to Datamonitor, the market research group, demand for champagne is set to immp by 22 per cent in the UK. Germany, France and the US in 1999, with sales of sparkling wine also rising sharply.

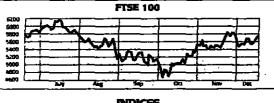
The report raises the prospect of a champagne shortage, with demand possibly exceeding the 320 million bottles which are available around the world. By comparison, however, growth in the demand for beer and next year wine is expected to be

#### Brand development link-up

THE IDENTICA PARTNERSHIP, the brand development group, is to merge with Tango Design, part of Bartle Bogle Hegarty, the advertising group, in order to concentrate on projecting companies' brands inside shops. The place where consumers buy products – the so-called point of engagement - has traditionally been neglected by advertisers. In the US, however, advertisers spend over \$13bn every year promoting brands at the point of

Identica, founded in 1995 by Michael Peters, has £7m turnover and a client base that includes Seagram, Unilever, One2, One and Gillette.

#### STOCK MARKETS



		IND	IÇES			
index	Close	With the M	R's de (1	() 52 wk high	52 m/s, Josep	Yield(%)
FT\$E 100	5741.90	200.20	3.61	6183.7	4599.2	
FTSE 250	4711.20	-25.70	-0.54	5970.9	4247.6	
FTSE 350	2703.60	77. <u>10</u>	2.94	2969.1	2210.4	
FTSE All Share	2607.39	71.12	2.80	2886.52	2143.53	
FTSE SmallCap	2016.00	3.40	0.17	2793.8	1834.4	
FTSE Fledgling	1121.80	-1.80	-0.16	1517.1	1046.2	0.004
FTSE AIM	793,40	-6.70	-0.84	1146.9	761.3	0.002
FTSE EBLOC 100	935 07					14
Dow Jones	6903.63	81.87	0.93	9380.2	7400.3	1.681
Nikkei	14194.29	-211 35	-1.47	17352.95	12787.9	1.032

## INTEREST RATES

UK INTEREST RATES	١ſ
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MONEY MARKET RATES					BOND YIELDS				
leder.	3 month	Yr che	1 year	Trebg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chy	
UK	6.38	-1 34	5 74	-2.01	4.43	-1.86	4.30	-1.94	
US	5 23	-0.67	5.00	-1.03	4.58		5.01		
Japan	0.49	-0.25	0 54	-0.18	1.47	-0.44	2.16	-0.38	

Germany 3.32 -0.43 3.18 -0.86 3.83 -1.44 4.71 -1.15

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Friday With th Yr ago

#### Dollar 1,6799 -1,19: 1 6451 Sterling 0 5953 +0 42p 0.6078 D-Mark 2.7955 +1.64pt 2.9743 D-Mark 1 6640 +1.81pt 1.7987 194.17 -V2.31 215.94 Yen 115.75 -V0.60 130.58

## OTHER INDICATORS

•	Close	Wit d	Yr ago		index	Org	At siles	Next fig
Brent Oil	(5) 9.43	0.25	17.18	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	Dec
Gold (5)	289.05	-1.80	287.00	RPI	164.40	3.00	159.61	Dec
Silver (5)	4,94	0.10	6.01	Base	Rates	6.25	7.25	-

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

T	OURISI	RAIES	
Australia (\$)	7.6009	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.2
Austria (schillings)	18.96	Netherlands (guilders)	3.038
Belgium (francs)	55.71	New Zealand (\$)	3.083
Canada (S)	2.5159	Norway (krone)	12.5
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7970	Portugal (escudos)	27 <u>5.3</u>
Denmark (krone)	10.32	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.136
Finland (markka)	8,2645	Singapore (\$)	2.648
France (francs)	8.9598	Spain (pesetas)	229.3
Germany (marks)	2.7098	South Africa (rands)	9.615
Greece (drachma)	454.01	Sweden (krone)	13.1
Hong Kong (S)	12.58	Switzerland (francs)	2.192
ireland (punts)	1.0850	Thailand (bahts)	56 <u>.2</u> 5
Indian (rupees)	64.33	Turkey (lirasi)	49797
israei (shekels)	6.4618	USA (\$)	1.636
italy (lira)	2685		
Japan (yen)	189.03	Rates for indication purpo	ses trak
Malaysia (ringgits)	6,1357		
Maira (iira)	0,6076	Source, Thomas Cook	

Malta (lira)

# Australian group wins NPI auction with £2.7bn deal

AMP, the Australian insurance By ANDREW VERITY group, has clinched victory in the battle to buy NPI, the mutual life insurer, in a deal

AMP yesterday confirmed it had beaten off stiff competition from other life insurers to win put itself up for sale at the beginning of October.

windfalls of up to £800 each.

Under the offer, NPT's 600,000 policyholders will receive a cash race for the insurer after about payout of at least £300 each. 15 rival companies expressed. Among them, over 440,000 who an initial interest.

hold with-profits policies will receive a further cash payout which values the society at averaging £477. Policyholders £2.7bn and opens the way for will receive further unspecipolicyholders to receive cash fied sums in higher bonuses over the coming years.

The offer will be subject to a poll of qualifying members to be held next spring. NPI said it was the auction for NPI, which was unlikely that windfalls would be forced by financial weakness to sent out before late summer. The Australian group beat off

insurers, in the final stage of the

If the deal is approved, NPI will cease to exist as a mutual life office and become a subsidiary of Pearl, the mass market UK life insurer owned by AMP. Alastair Lyons, the chief executive of NPI, will retain his

on the British board of AMP. George Trumbull, chief executive of AMP, said the deal would result in some redundancies because of overlaps with Henderson, the investment CGU and Britannic, two UK manager which AMP bought earlier this year. However, he said these would amount to less than 10 per cent of NPT's 2.200 staff "in the short term".

He added AMP was unlikely to make any further UK acquisitions in the short term. "We are a big python that has just swallowed a bull and we need to stop

and digest it."

AMP will in effect pay just post and has been offered a seat £510m in new money for NPI. and declared that converting to The rest of the £2.7bn figure consists of £1.4bn in assets from NPI's estate – a sum already owned by NPI's policyholders - and a facility of £800m to boister the financial strength of NPT's life fund, one of the weakest in the life insurance sector.

Yesterday's announcement marks the end of a two-year the due diligence stage,

courtship of NPI by the Australian insurer, which first approached the group in early 1997 after losing to Prudential in a similar battle for Scottish Amicable, Alastair Lyons initially resisted AMP's advances

end, not an end in themselves". However the insurer was forced by a combination of return NPI to financial health. financial weakness and turbulent stock markets to start a competitive auction in October.

become a plc would make

policyholders "a means to an

Swiss Life, one of four insurers to make it through to

dropped out in the last three weeks after learning of the scale of funds required to boost NPI's financial strength.

The deal is much less expensive for AMP than it would have been for a foreign office such as Swiss Life, because AMP already owns a UK life insurer. AMP can use the assets of Pearl's life fund to assign the £800m needed to

surance consultant, said the windfalls were small comfort to policyholders, given the low bomises paid on NPI policies in



The \$9m purchase of two vaccines against nicotine and cocaine could give Cantab access to potentially huge markets Joe O'Shoughnessy

# Cantab set to buy anti-smoking drug

CANTAB PHARMACEUTICALS, By Francesco Guerrera pany, will today offer hope to millions of smokers and drug funded through the issue of addicts with the \$9m (£5.5m) purchase of two vaccines

against nicotine and cocaine. Cantab is set to reveal that it is buying the two drugs, currently in clinical trials in the US, from the American biotechnology firm ImmunoLogic.

The acquisition will be around two million Cantab shares at a slight premium to Friday's closing share price of 202.5p, leaving ImmunoLogic with nearly 6 per cent of the UK

The deal will give Cantab, which has a number of other

vaccines in its pipeline, access to two potentially huge markets. Recent research shows that there are 50 million daily smokers in the US alone, 17 million of whom attempt to quit smoking each year. More prescription and over-thecounter drugs by people trying to give up nicotine in the US.

The cocaine vaccine will tar-

get the millions of heavy users of the drug. In the US, more than two million people use cocaine on a regular basis and 900,000 of them seek treatment

The vaccines are designed neutralise the effects of the two substances. Experts believe they could have an edge over

each year. than \$350m is spent annually on to generate antibodies that return, Immuno Logic will conventional treatments,

which have a high relapse rate. Cantab has also agreed to pay ImmunoLogic a further \$11m if the two vaccines successfully complete Phase II clinical trials - the intermediate stage of drugs testing. In transfer \$6m in cash to Cantab to fund the development of the two compounds until the end of the year 2000.

## Deflation 'to **MEPC** director left hit in 2002' with payoff of £6m

#### BRITAIN FACES the prospect of By ANDREW VERITY negative inflation within four years - the first period of falling prices in more than half a cenbury - according to a leading

economic think-tank. In a gloomy report, the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) predicts that

minus 0.2 per cent in the year

2002 after slowing to 0.2 per cent

The fall in prices - also known as deflation - will be accompanied by a rise in unemployment of more than 500,000 over the next three years, while interest rates will fall to as low as 2.4 per cent.

The CEBR has revised its forecasts following signs of weakening consumer confidence and figures showing that companies are sitting on an unexpectedly large amount of excess stock.

Companies will cut prices to sell off excess stock just as demand is weakening, while falling oil and commodity prices will add to the downward pressays. That is likely to result in

on the back of inflationary wage increases and rising oil and commodity prices. Now all these factors are going into reverse, and as a result inflation is likely to disappear.

"This will be a new world for inflation in the UK will fall to most people working today, who have spent their entire working lives in an inflationary environment. We will no longer be able to think in terms of annual rounds of wage and price increases."

The CEBR predicts a gradual fall in base rates from 7.2 per cent this year to 5.3 per cent next year, 4.2 per cent in 2000, 2.8 per cent in 2001 and 2.4 per cent in 2002. It warns that the economy is set to shrink stightly: real gross domestic product growth will fall from 2.4 per cent in 1998 to minus 0.1 per cent next year before returning

to growth of 2.3 per cent by 2002. Technically, the forecast of negative inflation applies only to 2002, but the CEBR predicts that the phenomenon of deflasure on inflation, the CEBR tion may persist beyond then.

The fall in prices would be the first since the 1940s. The Douglas McWilliams, chief lowest rate of UK inflation in the executive of the CEBR. said: past four decades was in 1959, "Inflation took off in the 1970s when prices rose 0.6 per cent. | cial rewards if he could extract

# MEPC, the property giant, is expected to come under intense

scrutiny from its shareholders this week after revealing that a former director has received a payoff of almost £6m.

David Gruber, the former chief executive of MEPC's businesses in the United States, was paid £5.2m as a bonus for successfully negotiating the sale of the company's US property portfolio. In addition, he also received £769,000 in compensation for loss of office. Mr Gruber, who left the company at the end of September, was on a two-

year rolling contract. The payoff, revealed in MEPC's annual report which was posted on Friday evening, is likely to trigger some uncomfortable questions for Sir John Egan, the chairman, and chief executive James Tuckey. about the company's corporate governance procedures.

MEPC put its US portiolio up deciding to concentrate on its UK businesses in an attempt to reverse its flagging share price stressed that the payout was a performance.

It put Mr Gruber in charge of the process and offered him a boous linked to the amount he raised from the sale, with spe-



James Tuckey: Facing uncomfortable questions

a price above the book value of the properties.

A spokesman for MEPC of £50m." he said.

The portfolio was eventually sold earlier this year for \$1.3bn (£774m), some £50m more than book value. As a result of his for sale in September 1997 after success, Mr Gruber's payoff rose sharply.

> reward for success rather than failure: "This was a contractual arrangement at the time of the decision to sell and was related to the surplus above book value.

are likely to be surprised at the size of the incentive and the fact that it was not capped at a particular level.

MEPC is no stranger to shareholder unrest. Eighteen months ago, dismayed by the group's flagging share price performance, investors explored the possibility of encouraging one of its rivals to mount a bid.

Mr Tuckey survived by executing a sharp change in strategy, deciding to sell off the group's US and Australian portfolios. The bulk of the Australian properties have now also been sold, although they fetched less than book

Despite the change in tack however, and the decision to return a large chunk of the proceeds of the sale to shareholders, MEPC's share price has continued to head south. It recently hit a 12-month low of 373p - almost 40 per cent

below its peak However, MEPC's directors are understood to be relaxed about the latest revelation, believing that shareholders will accept the size of the payout when the details of Mr Gruber's contract are explained to them.

# Buyout market slumps as debt dries up

By PETER THAL LARSEN

THE MARKET for management 🤄 buyouts has collapsed in the final three months of the year as venture capitalists have struggled to raise debt to help fund their deals. The slump means large venture capital groups will have to downgrade the returns they have projected

on their funds. Figures published today by KPMG, the accountancy firm, show that 27 buyouts worth more than £10m have been completed since the end of Sentember with a combined >

value of £1.4bn. This is half the value of the deals done in the final quarter of last year, and 60 per cent less than in the third quarter, when buyouts worth £3.4bn were

backed. The slump reflects the up-heaval in the financial markets, which has hit demand for the high-yield bonds used by venture capitalists to finance their larger deals. Fears of a recussion in the UK have also prompted a more cautious

approach. According to KPMG, it could take until the middle of next year before confidence returns. Mike Stevens, the firm's head of management buyout services, said: "Larger, more heavily leveraged deals and those involving businesses in vulnerable sectors such as retailing or exporting have been particularly difficult to finance. It may be some time before the . market starts acceleratin

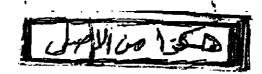
During the final quarter, the average size of buyouts has fallen to 552m from £85m in the previous three months. This reflects the lack of large buyouts which have dominated the venture capital industry in the past year

Despite the downturn, 1998 has still been a record year. A total of £11.81bn has been spent on buyouts in the past 12 months, an increase of almost 45 per cent from the previous record of £8.2bn, set in 1997.

Nevertheless, the situation has put pressure on large venwhich have raised huge funds to pursue large deals.

"For the time being the money is stuck on deposit. earning ever-declining rates of interest," said Mr Stevens. "Either the big private equity houses must wait for the banks to re-enter the market or they must accept deals which involve a relatively high component of equity and less gearing Either way, the returns they have projected over the next two or three years will have to be revisited."

In the past three months the largest deal was Charterhouse Development Capital's acquisition of Madame Tussaud's from Pearson, the media group. for £435m. The deal was unusual because Charterhouse used a large chunk of its on w equity to fund. The ventur capital group plans to refinance the business when the debt



# Policy and the smuggling bonanza

AS THERE are only three more (cross-border) shopping days to Christmas, it is a good moment to reflect on this great new British pastime. Ever since customs border controls were dismantled in January 1993, people have not been obliged to buy taxed cigarettes and alcohol, as the untaxed alternative has been available in large quantities across the Channel This poses a long-term threat to the tax base and to the rule of law, and threatens to turn the conventional wisdom on tobacco taxation on its head. Let

In the past, consumption of alcohol and cigarettes in Britain was almost entirely from taxed goods bought on the high street. This gradually changed as duty-free consumption became an increasingly significant source of supply. But the abolition of border controls has added an entirely new source of tax-avoiding supply - smuggled

Whenever two identical products are available in different jurisdictions at different prices, you must expect people to buy in the cheap country for resale or consumption in the expensive country.

Usually this is called trade, and the activity tends to equalise the prices in the two countries. But when the authorities outlaw trade, and/or impose a tax on it, it is driven underground and becomes



#### BILL ROBINSON

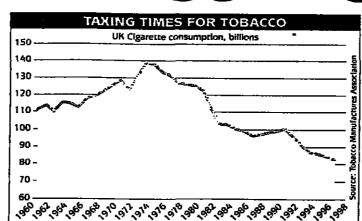
The rewards of smuggling are now well in excess of the costs and the potential penalty of being caught

The economics of smuggling are just like the economics of trade. It is only worthwhile if the price difference more than covers the transport costs - plus, in the case of smuggling, a premium to induce the smuggler to run the risk of being caught. Tobacco is an attractive good from the smuggler's point of view because the price gap between the UK and Europe is large, and cigarettes are small and light. A van filled to the brim with cigarettes generates many thousands of pounds of revenue to the successful smuggler.

However, when the ports and airports were closely policed the chances of getting caught were too great to make smuggling attractive. It is only since the border controls were abolished that smuggling has grown up on any scale. This reflects a sharp fall in the expected costs of smuggling the penalty for being caught multiplied by the probability of apprehension. The rewards of smuggling are now well in excess of the costs.

Historically, most smuggling has been amateur - goods brought in for the smuggler's own use. There is a natural limit to the damage done by amateur smuggling, set by the number of journeys people make. their personal needs and the physical capacity of their means of transport. Professional smuggling. which is all about resale to third parties, has no such natural limits. If one van-load generates thousands of pounds of income, many vans will cross the Channel.

We can think of smugglers as entering a market where they have an identical product at a fraction of the existing market price. If they price at the existing level, they are hugely profitable. The profits enjoyed by the first entrants will attract others and competition for the contraband market will tend to drive down the price of contraband. As a result, contraband will tend to increase its share of the total market, and contraband suppliers will enjoy increasing economies of



Thus professional smuggling, once established, tends to grow. It quickly dwarfs legitimate crossborder shopping. The UK authorities, who launched a pre-Christmas crackdown on smuggling last month, believe that contrahand is costing the taxpayer £1bn of tobacco tax revenue out of a total of £10bn. This compares with only £60m of revenue lost to cross-border shopping. These figures show that smuggling is now a firmly established form of organised crime. It has become a business with a turnover measured in hundreds of millions and thousands of retail

Despite the crackdown, this business is bound to grow. For example, industry experts believe that one

cigarette in three smoked in Canada during the high tax regime of the early 1990s was smuggled. Canada provides a fascinating case study because data is available by province, and the incidence of contraband across provinces varies with the distance from the border with the US - the source of cheaper cigarettes.

The UK is moving rapidly in this direction. The official estimates on smuggling suggest that it is doubling every three years. This has profound implications both for tax revenue and for health policy.

The usual assumption made by the authorities is that when they put up tax, the fall in sales is always much less than the rise in price. Smokers, for whom cigarettes are

HE DISAPPEARING WORKERS

a necessity, are simply not very price-sensitive. They pay the extra

However, if the hardened smoker has the option of buying cheaper duty-free or contraband cigarettes, the effect of a tax hike is to make him switch. The more widely available are cigarettes that avoid duty. the greater the chances that a tax hike will simply cause the smoker to switch to them when the duty

The implications for tax policy, if you think about it for a minute, are pretty drastic. Every increase in cig-arette duty will drive more smokers into the arms of the smugglers. This is had for the rule of law and it is obviously bad for revenue. A less obvious implication, but a very disturbing one, is that it is also bad for the health of the nation.

One oft-proclaimed purpose of having high tobacco taxation is the paternalist one of discouraging people, for their own good, from smoking. When the only available cigarettes were taxed cigarettes this policy worked - although it always conflicted with the government's real objective in taxing smoking, which was to raise money. However, now that smokers have access to cheaper smuggled cigarettes, the effect of each duty increase is to make more of them switch to contraband.

Smoking is an activity which has become increasingly concentrated among the poor - the middle classes have all but given it up. And it is the poor who are targeted by the purveyors of contraband, who "push" smuggled cigarettes in many of the same outlets as illegal drugs. Raising duty rates does not affect the smoking behaviour of those who already depend on contraband. But it does make contraband more profitable for the seller and more altractive for the buyer. It thus increases the supply-push of illegal cigarettes to new users.

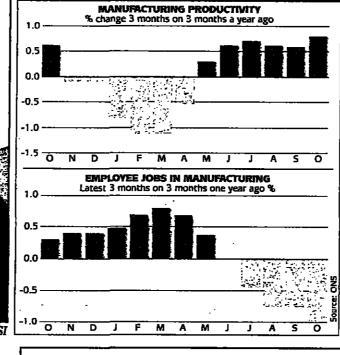
Two conclusions follow. First, the Government is entirely right to crack down on smuggling. It is good for public health and good for tax revenue. No other policy meets both objectives, which usually

Second, the time is fast approaching when it will be necessary to attack the smugglers by destroying the source of their profits. That means cutting duty, as the Canadians did in 1994. It is politically unthinkable at present but, as the Canadians found, the logic is irresistible. A tax cut brings so many smokers back into the legitimate market that it boosts revenue. And because these smokers are paying the full price, not the contraband price, they smoke less. Good for health, good for revenue.

Bill Robinson is director of the Strategy and Policy practice at London Economics.



British Steel is one of the most efficient producers in the world, but this means little when demand disappears MSI



# BAA's Alconbury plan is grounded

BAA, the airports operator, has said the centre would have suffered a blow to its plans to created 7,000 new jobs over develop a former military air base into a road and rail distribution centre, writes Philip Thornton.

A plan by ADL, a joint venture of BAA and Kingspark Developments, to convert the airfield at Alconbury in Cambridgeshire was rejected last week by the planning committee of Huntingdonshire District Council. Councillors voted not to accept the plan and meet again today to formulate their

A spokesman for ADL said it was disappointed at the decision, which was contrary to officers' recommendation. He

the 7 million square foot site, although he did not specify the value of the project.

The spokesman said: "We are waiting to see the reason for the decision and depending on that we may or may not appeal."

The setback is the latest for BAA over Alconbury. ADL was forced to withdraw plans for an air freight terminal there in the face of strong public opposition. Its current plan involves tak-

ing lorries off the road and putting freight on to trains. The site is near the A1 and A14 roads and could be linked to the East Coast main rail line.

# No Christmas cheer Digital Camera for British industry and Christmas

By Francesco Guerrera

BRITISH STEEL, Port Talbot shut. British Steel, Port Llanwern - shut. Royal Doulton, Stoke-on-Trent - shut. Rover, Longbridge - reduced hours. Ford, Dagenham - reduced hours. As the country's manufacturers sink even deeper into recession, the message from the country's industrial heartland is: Britain is not working this Christmas.

<u>★</u>he numbers give a graphic account of the plight of UK manufacturing. Overall, more than 11,000 workers will be forced to go home for the Christmas period because their factories had to shut early to cut costs. A further 19,000 will work a shorter week, as companies reduce shifts to meet the slump in demand for their products.

The problem is not new. Official figures show that manufacturing output has been contracting for some time and some 60,000 jobs have already been lost in British industry since the start of the year. But regent weeks have witnessed a pick-up in the flow of bad news coming from the country's producers.

In the last month or so, British Steel has announced massive job cuts, widely expected to total 12,000, the permanent closure of two rolling mills and sharp production curbs in other plants. Royal Doulton, one of the country's leading pottery makers, has said that it would scrap one of its main factories and make 1.000 people redundant – a sixth of its work force. Rover and Ford, the two car makers, have fared slightly better. But even their announcement of new flexible working arrangements to avoid redundancies is a symptom that Britain's industrial heartbeat has slowed dowato a faint pulse.

reasons for the manulacturers' malaise have been around for some time. The strength of the pound and the **News Analysis:** A bleak new year of shut-downs, layoffs and reduced hours looms. Can more flexible working practices ease the pain?

Trades Confederation, believes

that the lavoffs - to be achieved

through voluntary redundancies

wherever possible - were the

best possible outcome in the

He argues that without the

unions, the cull would have

been even more severe. "It is

a cultural change. We have

argued that this change in cul-

dire circumstances.

softly approach".

and Ford deals.

the car makers.

flood of cheaper alternatives al secretary of the Iron and Steel coming from the crisis-ridden Asia have destroyed the competitiveness of British exports. At home, the slowdown in the economy and fading consumer confidence are making life difficult for UK-made goods. But if the problem is well known, solutions are not easy to find.

As the example of British Steel has shown, there is very little an export-led company can do when the markets and the exchange rates are going against it. The company is one of the most efficient producers in the world and has worked

Lord Brookman: This is

a softly-softly approach'

hard to improve its performance in the past few years. But productivity is of little help when demand is not there.

As one British Steel official put it: "The situation has got progressively worse during the first half of the year as the effects of the Asian crisis have resulted in oversupply and price falls." Hence the job cuts and the restructuring programme, which have received the blessing of the unions.

Lord Brookman, the gener-

chief negotiator in the talks with Rover, says that the arrangement is a radical departure from "the boom-and-bust" strategy of many British firms. However, he maintains that such deals are still too rare in British industry. "The legal framework in this

> countries. We are Europe's soft. touches, the easiest and the speediest to sack," he says. But despite Mr Woodley's scepticism, the need to move towards more flexible working practices is being increasingly

recognised by unions and em-

ployers alike.

country is inadequate com-

pared with other European

ture can develop but we aren't One trade union official summed up the stark choices prepared to accept hard redundancies. This is a softlyfaced by workers' representatives in the current economic gloom. "It's very simple. There are two choices. To resist However, Lord Brookman admits that he failed to breach change and find out that the the company's resistance to factory will close anyway or to agree flexible working patterns in exchange for no redundantell the company, 'We think than in a year's time you will be cies along the line of the Rover facing problems so let's sit Those agreements, widely down and discuss how we can seen as a landmark in the his-

tory of British industrial relations, were a direct result of the tough export markets faced by As the Asian demand for Ford Fiestas and Rover 200s slumped, the companies and the unions had to find a way to successful companies for very cushion the blow. In the words of one Rover official: "In the car industry, it is very difficult to balance supply and demand. We choices for us."

need the flexibility to be able to ebb and flow as the market The Rover deal, which will withproblems. ensure that Longbridge plant

stays open to produce the new Mini, can be described as The company has the flexibility to ask the staff to work shorter hours during lean periods and longer days in booming times without having to pay overtime. As a trade-off, Rover's German parent, BMW, undertook not to lay off staff. Tony Woodley, the unions'

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solve them.' " Ken Jackson, the general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, believes that the first choice is not an option. " Trade unions can't stand still. Our members don't work for unlong, so it's in our interest to help our industry to change even if that means difficult

Employers agree and point to the advantages of having the workers on side when dealing

Neutral observers say that this spirit of co-operation is set to be put to the test by troubles to come. Both the Confederation of British Industry and the Engineering Employers Federation predict more manufacturing gloom in the first half of 1999. According to some forecasters, UK manufacturers will have to shed a further 125.000 jobs before hitting the bottom

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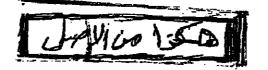
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# The 20-year bull run is not over yet

IT'S BEEN a splendid year for blue chips, despite the autumn collapse of confidence, which prompted agonised squeals of despair and the usual array of declarations that the bull run was over and the bears would be left to feast on the bones of the stock

Last week Footsie closed at 5,741.9 points, representing a not inconsiderable 600 gain so far this year and thereby preserving the 20-year bull run.

Mind you, the index has not, as yet, lived up to the heady hopes expressed at the start of the year. But a merry festive run - the signs last week dent predictions that the were encouraging - could push Footsie to a level which justifies the predictions cir-culating as 1998 got under

Many City experts were convinced Footsie would end the year comfortably above 6,000. They can, even if the seasonal run fails continue, say with justification they were on the right path. Unfortunately, they could be accused of getting one essential element of investment strategy hopelessly wrong - their timing.

The index crossed 6,000 in April and went on to peak at 6,179 in July. Then it was downhill with a year's low of 4,599.2 hit in October before sanity returned and a revival got under way.

The slump, with the bene-fit of hindsight, had been waiting to happen. The simmering Russian economic crisis suddenly exploded, prompting Asia's already appreciable problems to be regurgitated with increased force.

British businessmen be-tame more vocal about the strong pound and its impact on company earnings, and profit warnings almost acquired a nuisance value.

The state of the state of

The misdemeanours of President Clinton started to ruffle New York and then the Long-Term Capital Management hedge fund disaster hit a startled market, provoking wild stories of a deluge of financial disasters and confi-

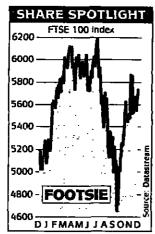
STOCK MARKET WEEK



world's banking system was on the brink of collapse.

As Footsie plunged, those earlier, so-confident forecasts were pulled back. Bob Semple and David McBain at BT Alex.Brown, for example, revised their year-end estimate to 5,500.

The worries which created the autumn retreat have now



faded. Still the problems of Asia and Russia have not gone away, and sterling, despite a cracking run of base rate cuts, remains resolutely strong. But the banking crisis was a hysterical illusion and it would be surprising if the Clinton affair is not now largely factored into calculations.

Although Footsie has, investment cash sploshing around the system, recovered by mounting a cash bid,

forecasts for next year are starting to look increasingly chirpy, the rest of the stock market remains a deeply depressed area.

Second- and third-line shares fluttered in the first half of the year, even hitting new highs, but their under-performance has been frightening, and the mid cap, small cap and fledgling constituents look

As Richard Jeffrey at Charterhouse Tilney pointed out recently, the small cap index has under performed the All-Share index a staggering 40 per cent in the last two years.

The stock market in recent times has become very much a market of two halves Footsie constituents enjoying all the fun and most of the rest limping along, looking decidedly distressed. The reasons for the con-

trasting fortunes have been well documented. The lack of liquidity which hampers dealing in smaller company shares is increased by the reluctance of many institutional investors to venture outside the confines of Footsie. They want to buy and sell shares smoothly and easily and that is not possible with many on the under-card.

It is a chicken and egg situation; until big investors are rest prepared to take a more active interest in small company shares and liquidity in them consequently improves, they will remain neglected.

There is, of course, plenty of hidden value at today's share valuations. The continuing flow of cash takeover bids, often from overseas, is an indication of the merits lurking on the under-card. And the growing and rather

worrying growth in management buy-outs is another example. It is understandable that managers become irritated by the low - and they believe inappropriate - value placed on the their company helped by the sheer weight of and their labours by the stock market. So they unlock value

much of its equilibrium and usually backed by venture

Independent directors and outside advisers are consulted but the managers are in a better position than anyone else to appreciate the true value of their company and it would be surprising if they do not make sure they get a bargain. Certainly they would be foolish to pay even a penny over the top.

So at the end of the day it is the shareholder who is in danger of getting ripped off and as smaller companies are largely the preserve of small, private shareholders it is, as is so often the case in the stock market, the little guy who

Will the situation improve for the small company next year? Hope springs eternal. Mr Jeffrey says there is "exceptional value embedded in small company ratings" and believes a rally could occur in the middle of next year.

Still, the long-running under-performance by the little 'uns provides fuel for the argument that the fact there are, in effect, two stock markets should be recognised by a two-way split - an international market for, say, the 100 shares in Footsie and the 250 in the mid cap index, and a domestic one for the

Indeed it could be argued that the computerised order book, currently embracing 125 shares and intended eventually to take in the top 350, is laying the foundation for an eventual division.

Clearly the demands of the likes of Glaxo Wellcome, capitalised at £71bn, are far removed from those of the little cider group Merrydown, with an £8.2m valuation.

The requirements of institutional investors and private shareholders are also vastly different. Although there would obviously have to be cross-fertilisation, with big and small investors able to deal in both markets, a dual operation would have much to

# Music sample strikes a note of contention

WHO'S SUING **WHOM** 

JOHN WILLCOCK

MANFRED MANN (real name Manfred Lubowitz), the popular musician and songwriter who found fame and fortune with his eponymous band in the 1960s, is suing the extremely trendy group Massive Attack for alleged plagiarism.

Mr Mann says that in 1971 he composed a song called "Tribute", which he then recorded with Manfred Mann's Earth

Then in May this year Virgin issued an album by Massive Attack Mezzanine, which carried a track entitled "Black

Mr Mann says this track is about 128 bars long. His writ claims: "In 100 out of these approximately 128 bars there was incorporated by the Group (Massive Attack), in an identical or in a substantially identical form, a repeated two-bar extract taken from the recording by a process known as

Mr Mann is seeking an injunction to stop further sales of the album. plus damages and

GRANADA and London Weekend Television (LWT) have fallen out with WEA International and Warner Music International Services over two recent films, Coronation Street: Viva Las Vegas and a compila-



Massive Attack: their song 'Black Milk' is the subject of plagiarism allegations

and Unseen Bits.

The two British TV companies made a deal to allow WEA and Warner to distribute videos of the films. Granada and LWT now claim they have received only £600,000 in advances from the US companies, several hundred thousand pounds less than they are due under the deal. They now want an injunction to stop WEA and Warner from copying and distributing the

COCA-COLA and Schweppes went to court last week to force **British Telecommunications** (BT) to divulge the name and address of a person subscribing to a BT mobile telephone numper, a person they suspect of

infringing their trademarks. Under the Data Protection Act, in certain circumstances a service provider, such as BT, can be forced by the courts to divulge the identity of a subscriber to a Jefri applied in the UK courts to

tion, Blind Date: Greatest Hits rights to client confidentiality. Last Tuesday the court sup-

ported the application, and BT handed over the name and address to the drinks companies, which is continuing its investigations. The name of the person concerned remains con-

THE USE of "Chinese walls" by accountants, lawyers, investment banks and other professional firms will have to be re-examined following a landmark ruling in favour of Prince Jefri of Brunei in his case against KPMG.

Prince Jefri, younger brother of the Sultan of Brunei, hired KPMG in 1997 to review his own finances. This year the Brunei Investment Authority (BIA) launched an investigation into the Sultanate's finances, and especially Prince Jefri's affairs.

When the BIA hired KPMG to carry out the review. Prince third party, overriding their stop them, saying their Chinese walls would fail to stop confidential information about him leaking to the BIA

The law lords found in favour of Prince Jefri, and on Friday published the reasons for their ruling. They criticised KPMG's "ad hoc" construction of a Chinese wall, and laid down ground rules for professional firms to

follow in future. The law lords were particularly worried that the KPMG people working for the Prince who then worked for the BIA came from within the same department. In future, Chinese valls should be used to separate different departments, and these departments should, where possible, be housed in different locations. This should extend to different dining arrangements. according to Lord Millett, who wrote the judgment.

According to one of Prince Jefri's solicitors, Jeremy Cole, a partner with Lovell White Durrant, the judgment will affect

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## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR DIARY

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tries. AGMs: Babcock International, CH Bailey. Economics: US Federal Open Market Committee

WEDNESDAY - Tokyo markets closed. Interims: Stewart & Wright. AGMs: Enterprise Capital. EGMs: Hillsdown Holdings, Jupiter Geared Capital, Yeoman Investment Trust.

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TUESDAY - Finals: Kelsey Indus- Economics: UK global trade (Oct), UK non-EU trade (Nov), MPC meeting minutes (Dec), US final GDP (Q3), US corporate profits (Q3) THURSDAY (Christmas Eve) -London Stock Exchange closes at 12:30.

FRIDAY – Christmas Day. MONDAY 28 December – Bank holiday.

TUESDAY — Nothing scheduled. WEDNESDAY - London Stock Exchange closes at 12:30. AGMs: Galaxy Media. EGMs: Fife Indmar, Plasmon. Economics: Nationwide house price survey (Dec), BBA mortgage lending (Nov) **NEW YEAR'S EVE** - London Stock Exchange closed all day.

NEW YEAR'S DAY - Bank holiday.

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£50,000 +	6.05%	5.55%	5.55% ▼
£10,000 +	5.95%	5.45%	5.45%
Up to £10,000	5.75%	5.25%	5.25%
Midland Instant Access	Old Rate	e New Rate from 22 D	
Savings (Annual interest option)	Gross	Gross	AER
£50,000 ÷	5.50%	5.00%	5.00%
£25,000 +	4.65%	4.15%	4.15%
£10.000 +	4.20%	3.70%	3.70%
Up to £10,000	4.00%	3.50%	3.50%
Deposit Account	Old Rate	New Rate fro	om 22 Dec 98
7 days notice	Gross	Gross	AER

Up to £10,000

High Interest	Old Rate	New Rate fre	om 22 Dec 98
Savings Account 60 days notice (Monthly interest option)	Gross	Gross	AER
£100,000 +	6.18%	5.70%	5.85%
£50,000 +	5.89%	5.42%	5.55%
£10,000 +	5.80%	5.32%	5.45%
Up to £10,000	5.61%	5.13%	5.25%

50,000 +	J 5.50%	5.00%	] 5.00% <u>}</u>
25,000 +	4.65%	4.15%	4.15%
10.000 +	4.20%	3.70%	3.70%
p to £10,000	4.00%	3.50%	
eposit Account	Old Rate	New Rate fro	om 22 Dec 98
days notice to longer sold)	Gross	Gross	AER
50,000 +	5.44%	4.95%	5.00%
25,000 +	4.61%	4.12%	4.15%
10.000 +	4.16%	3.67%	3.70%

3.48%

3.50%

3.97%

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Savings (Monthly interest option)	Gross	Gross	AER			
£50,000 +	5.37%	4.89%	5.00%			
£25,000 +	4.56%	4.08%	4.15%			
£10,000 +	4.13%	3.64%	3.70%			
Up to £10,000	3.93%	3.45%	3.50%			
Tessa and	Old Rate	New Rate fro	m 22 Dec 98			
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Account	1.49%	1.00%	1.00%	Account	0.40%	0.25%	0.25%
	Old Rate	New Rate fr	om 22 Dec 98	Meridian Bank	Old Rate	New Rate	from 22 Dec
16 - 19 Year Old	Gross	Gross	AER	Account	Gross	Gross	AER
Account	1.74%	1.25%	1.25%	£50,000 +	3.45%	3.21%	3.25%
<del></del> -				£10,000 +	2.96%	2.48%	2.50%
<del></del>	<del></del>	, ,		52,000 +	1.49%	1.00%	1.00%
	Old Rate	New Rate fr	om 22 Dec 98	Up to £2,000	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
Livecash	Gross	Gross	AER				
	3.93%	3.45%	3.50%				

Secu	red Bor	rowing		
	Old Rate	New Rate fr	om 22 Dec 98	Base Rate 6.25%
HomeOwner Reserve	APR	APR	Annual Rate	effective from 10 December 1998
1	11.80%	11.30%	10.90%	

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# SPORT

Return to France '98: Of the 32 teams that entered last summer's finals only 10 still have the same man in charge









No fun on World Cup merry-go-round

THEY ARRIVE needing one thing above all—time. In a few weeks they discover that this is the one element in short supply and are shown the door. Most have their contracts paid in full but have lost their pride, a commodity more precious than any amount of cash.

Christmas is a traditional time for the sack — but not the one that Santa carries Six months after the World Cup finals, only 10 — soon to become nine - national coaches of the 32 teams that entered last summer's finals are still in their jobs, a poignant reminder of the fragility of a profession that pays handsome rewards but scant regard for reputations.

While no one was the least Hristo Bonev resigned after a woefully poor World Cup campaign, considerable sympathy has to be extended to the coaches of nations such as Saudi Arabia, South Africa. Tunisia and South Korea, all of whom were out of office even before the final game on July 12.

Every finalist's ambition was, of course, to reach round two but 16 had to go. To summarily dislikely to fall at the first hurdle dismissal. Then they buckled

was little short of scandalous. an achievement for such nations and should have been recognised as such by over-demanding national federations.

Former England manager Bobby Robson, himself a victim of football politics at Barcelona, but with a passion for the game that remains undimmed, remembers watching as coach after coach failed to finish the job he had started at France '98. "It's a fact: your reward for

getting to the World Cup finals

was to get the sack," Robson said. "The name of the game is to win but my word, it's a thin line. Look at Carlos Alberto Parsurprised when, say, Bulgaria's reira. Four years ago, he was the most important man in world football having won the trophy with Brazil. Two World Cup final matches later, this time in charge of Saudi Arabia, he loses his job after a game in which he has a player sent off against the host nation in front

of 80,000 fans." Parreira's sacking, said Robson, was particularly unfair. "The fact is that Saudi Arabia miss the coaches of those coun- had done quite well for 70 mintries who had always seemed utes against France until the

guy. That's unrealistic."

Getting to the finals was in itself the vacant South Africa job be-By the end of France 98, Henryk Kasperczak of Tunisia had gone, along with Cha Burn-kun of Nigeria and Philippe Troussier, who has transferred his allegiance from South Africa to

Of the 32 coaches at the

summer, 22 have now left

The following is a list of the

departures since the start of

the World Cup, which ran

from 10 June 10 to 12 July.

Argentina Daniel Passarella,

resigned and replaced by

Brazil Mario Zagalio, sacked

and replaced by Vanderley

Bulgaria Hristo Bonev, re-

signed and replaced by Dim-

Cameroon Claude Le Roy,

end of contract, replaced by

Jean Mangan Onguené.

their posts.

Marcelo Bielsa

Luxemburgo.

including Mario Zagallo of Brazil things went wrong. Going to solved through football. Parreira, who was linked with and Berti Vogts of Germany. Saudi Arabia had its own pres-Parreira, like Robson is now being heaped upon the vacant South Africa job be-Parreira, unlike some of his sures but it was light years biding his time, as is Vogts, knew he meant it.

fore it went to a local, Trott colleagues, took it all in his away from what he endured in whose miserable reign as na-Moloto, was not the only fall guy. stride. He knew from his time with Brazil the unpredictable nature of being a football manager. He also knew how re-South Korea, Bora Milutinovic of lentless the pressure could be.

When in the hot seat of one the most high-profile football jobs in the world, Parreira had Japan. Later, and more fa- to endure a terrible pasting

Colombia Hernan Dario Go-

Germany Berti Vogts, re-

signed and replaced by Erich

France Aimé Jacquet, end of

contract, replaced by Roger

Iran Jalal Talebi, resigned and

replaced by Mansour Pour-

Italy Cesare Maldini, re-

signed and replaced by Dino

signed and replaced by

Netherlands Guus Hiddink,

end of contract replaced by

Philippe Troussier.

Frank Rijkaard.

Takeshi Okada, re-

placed by Javier Alvarez.

World Cup in France last mez, end of contract, re-

Ribbeck.

heidari.

"I remember how Graham Taylor was vilified in the English tabloids after England failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals," said Parreira. "That was nothing compared to what can happen in

Nigeria Bora Milutinovic,

end of contract, replaced by

Norway Egil Olsen, resigned

and replaced by Nils Johan

Paraguay Paulo Cesar

Carpeggiani, end of contract.

Romania Anghel Iordanescu.

end of contract, replaced by

Saudia Arabia Carlos Al-

berto Parreira, sacked and re-

South Africa Philippe Trous-

sier, end of contract, re-

South Korea Cha Burn-kun,

sacked and replaced by Kim

placed by Otto Pfister.

placed by Trott Moloto.

Thijs Libregts.

Not yet replaced.

Victor Piturca.

Mung-seok.

tional coach of Germany came to a sad and abrupt end in early September.

German managers rarely if ever, quit. Indeed, there have only ever been six in the last 72 years. So when Vogts announced that he wanted to call it a day to Brazil. They expect all the preserve some "human dignity"

THE PRECARIOUS CAREER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COACH Spain Javier Clemente sacked and replaced by Jorge Cama-Tunisia Henryk Kasperczak

> United States Steve Sampson resigned and replaced by Bruce

sacked and replaced by Fran-

cesco Scoglio.

Yugoslavia Slobodan Santrac, retired and replaced by Milan Zivadinovic.

The 10 coaches remaining in their posts are: Glenn Hoddle (England), Rene Simoes (Jamaica), Manuel Lapuente (Mexico), Henri Michel (Morocco). Craig Brown (Scotland). Georges Leekens (Belgium). Herbert Prohaska (Austria) Bo Johannson (Denmark), Mi-roslav Blazevic (Croatia) and Nelson Acosta (Chile).

mously others were forced out. from the Brazilian press when country's political ills to be and spare his family the kind of forted by the knowledge to including Mario Zagallo of Brazil things went wrong. Going to solved through football. intolerable pressure that was they performed better than their Parreira, like Robson, is now being heaped upon him, you

> players privately rebelling against him and headlines such as "Berti, how much longer?" appearing in the national press. Vogts cut his losses and called it quits, the first time any German manager had done so in mid-season.

And yet, he had only lost 12 games as national team coach out of 102. "The way everyone complained, you'd have thought it was only 12 that I had won," said the embittered Vogts, who has been replaced by the experimental and far from convincing pairing of Erich Ribbeck and Uli Stielike.

Other high-profile coaches to pay the price of so-called World Cup failure include Argentina's Daniel Passarella, Sampdoria's first choice before they went for David Platt; Italy's Cesare Maldini, replaced by Dino Zoff, Zagallo, who has given way to the delightfully named Vanderley Luxemburgo; and, most recently, Spain's pragmatic Javier Clemente, who has gone to Real Betis.

Some, it has to be said, stepped down by choice, compredecessors: France's Aimé Jacquet, now back in the bosom way's Egil Olsen, who has just come out of retirement for the challenge of coaching Valerenga, Chelsea's next Cup-Winners' Cup opponents; and Guus Hiddink, who left the Netherlands semi-finalists to take over at Real

Madrid and has been replaced by Frank Rijkaard Whether by good fortune or good judgement, Glenn Hoddle, so far at least, is one of the 10 who have survived. So is Craig Brown and, somewhat surprisingly, Georges Leekens of

Any day now, Chile's Nelson Acosta looks likely to be discarded and become number 23 on the World Cup discard list. Hold on, wasn't it Chile who performed so sublimely against the Italians at France 98 and made more friends than arguably

any other team? Christmas cheer? Don't Ju

TOMORROW

Glenn Hoddle looks back at England's World Cup

# Curley's gamble with his life

Barney Curley Giving a Little Back By Nick Townsend Collins Willow £15.99

IF A SINGLE word could be found to unravel the enigma that is Barney Curley, it would be faith. In equal measure, his religion (Roman Catholic) and self-belief are the secrets of his success and notoriety and, his family apart, the most important things in a life that has, in its time, turned the traditionally conservative world of horse racing on its head.

Curley, born in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, in 1939 into a non-racing family, has become one of the most ferocious gamblers of recent times. But there is much more to him than that. His father was ruined by gambling (greyand young Barney, though interested in betting, was studying to become a Jesuit when he contracted TB and, for a time,

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## BOOK OF THE WEEK

was close to death. When he finally recovered, more than a year later, he decided that the priesthood was not for him and determined to try and make a living by betting, while attempting to avoid his father's fate. Along the way he became manager of three successful showbands, without having any knowledge of showbusiness or pop music.

His early gambling lessons were painful ones, but he learned to watch and read horses and races as well as any trainer, a profession whose ranks he would eventually join. His first coup, which has become part of Irish racing folklore, was landed in 1975 when, without breaking a single rule, he relieved the bookmakers of £300,000 with a hurdler called Yellow Sam. It was a brilliantly executed sortie, involving a rusted group of friends and the monopolisation of the only public telephone at Bellewstown racecourse (in the days before mobile phones).

Curley first came to prominence outside his native Ireland in 1984, when he successfully raffled his IR£1m home, Middleton House in County Westmeath, and trousered a tidy profit by selling 9,000 tickets at IR£200 each (£175). The event, described by The Irish Independent as "The second great mystery of Irish racing after Shergar's disappearance" made news around the world.

Armed with his profit, and after overcoming the minor problem of whether or not the lottery was legal, Bernard Joseph Curley, horse owner/trainer, gambler and estate agent extraordinaire, decided the time was right to try his luck in England. Success over the water followed swiftly, as did contro versy, and author Nick Townsend chronicles several other huge gambles (mostly successful) as well as "The Graham Bradley Affair" and Curley's doomed attempt to be the punters' saviour with The Independent Racing Organisation, which attracted just

Curley rarely speaks to the

media. He has a deserved reputation for being difficult. But Townsend, over many strength-sapping months, has obviously gained his trust and provides us with an illuminating insight of a very private man and his secrets. One celebrated chain of stores originally decided not to carry the book, on the basis that not enough people had heard of Curley. When it appeared in the after publication, a quick change of mind followed.

Good decision.

#### THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

1 European Football Yearbook 1998-99, edited by Mike Hammond (Sports Projects, paperback, £23.95)

2 Bleak and Blue - 22 Years at the Manchester Academy of Football Farce, Craig Winstanley (Sigma, paperback,

3 Addicted, Tony Adams with Ian Ridley (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99)

4 Jenny Pitman - The Autobiography (Partridge, hard-

5 Turning Point, Sean Fitzpatrick and Duncan Johnstone (Penguin, hardback, £16.99) 6 Elliott's Golf Form 1999, Keith Elliott (Portway Press,

7 **Annuario del Calcio Mondiale 98-99**, Salvatore Lo Presti

(SET, hardback, £19.95)

S **Playing at Home, John Aizlewood (Orion, hardback, £16.95)** 9 Blade Runners – Lives in Football, Gary Armstrong (Hallamshire Press, hardback, £16.95)

10 Pacemaker, Glenn McGrath with Daniel Lane (Ironbark, paperback, £14.95)

List compiled by Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 240 9604) and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8530), and www.sportspages.co.uk

# United can supplant Juve as favourites

JUVENTUS, WHO struggled to qualify for the knock-out stages, are only mid-table in Serie A and have lost Alessandro Del Piero, their brilliant playmaker-striker for the season, are favourites for the European Cup by virtue of having drawn Olympiakos, the outsiders, in the quarter-

With a training regime designed to bring their squad to peak fitness only in the new year and, free to dip into the transfer market at that point, the side that won the 1996 European Cup and should have accounted for the inferior Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid in 1997 and this year, should make the sen finals.

However, unless Juvent have found their stride bo domestically and in Europe I that point, the favourites the semi-final stage will be the winners of the Manchest

SPORTS BETTING

BY IAN DAVIES

United v Internazionale tie which, worryingly for Red Devils fans, may pitch Ronaldo against Jaap Stam.

Bayern Munich will be fancied to beat Kaiserslautern, their *Bundesliga* compatriots but Real Madrid, the holders, are no certainties to overcome Dynamo Kiev, although the Ukrainian outfit may be handicapped by playing the tie during their close season.

EUROPEAN CUP

mi-	Jerestus	10-3	5-2	7-2	10-3	11
	internazionale	4-1	5-1	9-2	9-2	4-
tus	Nan United	9-2	4-1	5-1	4-1	4
oth	Bayers Munich	5-7	4-1	4-1	9-2	11
by:	Real Madrid	4-1	6-1	4-1	5-1	Ę
by	Dynamo Kler	9-7	8-1	9-1	8-1	Ą
the	<b>Kaiserstautern</b>	12-1	20-1	12-1	14-1	1
ter	Olympiakos	28-1	40-1	25-1	28-1	33-

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SASHIA TICHAN SUPPLE CHANGE

TOTAL TOTAL

# Sharks looking sharp for final

SHEFFIELD SHARKS took the easy road to next month's National Cup final on their home court at Sheffield Arena on Saturday, while the Greater London Leopards earned their place the hard way by coming back from 18 points down to defeat the Newcastle Eagles 98-95 in overtime.

Sheffield should have expected a harder battle against the Cup holders. But their 78-66 victory was a re-enactment of the 19-point league win two weeks ago as Travis Conlan and Terell Myers dominated the ack court with as much ease as Wil Johnson and Todd Cauthorn obliterated the Tigers under the basket.

Johnson, who scored Sheffield's last five points with a dunk and a three-pointer, took five offensive rebounds in the opening four minutes as the Sharks luxuriated in the knowledge that they could afford to miss, knowing they would get the ball back.

An impassioned time-out plea by the Tigers coach, Paul James, who said: "You've had your fun for five minutes, now go out and start playing," fell

Even allowing for the ankle Hury which so severely restricted Jason Siemon, Tigers showed little stomach for the fight and Casey Arena was frequently left looking as agile as a statue while Conlan and Myers ran him ragged.

Sheffield now meet the Greater London Leopards in a repeat of the 1997 final, which

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

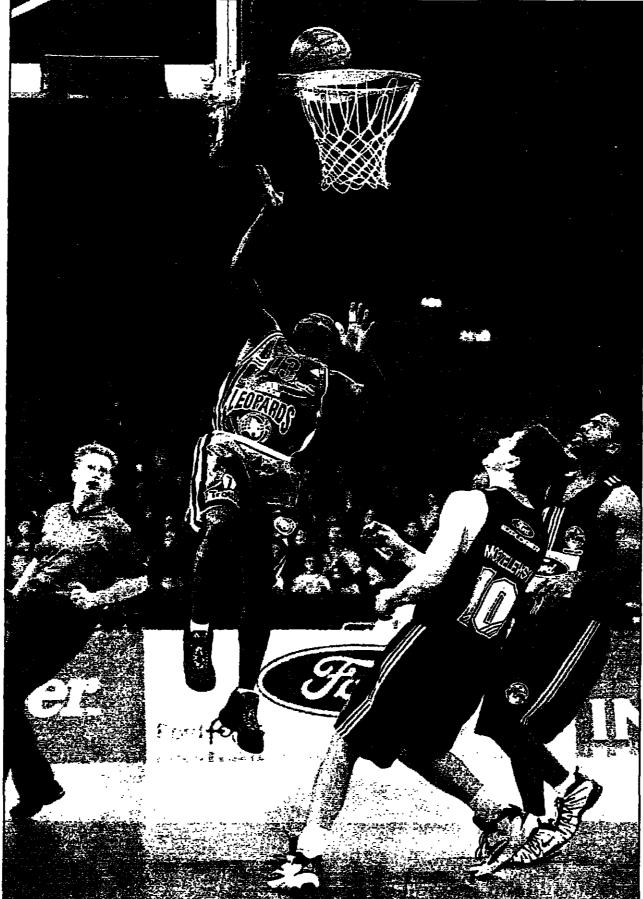
Sharks' own waters. It is also a dream final for the English Basketball Association, the organisers, because the Sharks. losers of only two games this season, will be the hosts at Sheffield Arena.

Eagles, still 15 points up with nine minutes to play, were grateful to Tim Moore and Robert Youngblood, who inspired Eric Burks' best half of basketball this season.

Leopards drew level for the first time at 80-80 with 62 seconds to play, before Ralph Blalock's jump shot gave Newcastle a two-point lead with

Leopards needed an outrageous refereeing decision, though, to get their chance in overtime when Stedroy Baker was given two free throws after he was plainly fouled passing the ball and not shooting.

"You have to make your breaks," Billy Mims, the Leopards coach, said, and after recovering an 18-point deficit they certainly did that. "The last two free-throws we got, we made our breaks. We attacked the basket; they didn't get there and fouled us. Stedroy Baker had to make both and he did. What a great job stepping up to the line. In overtime we had to make our free throws and we



Stedroy Baker scores for Greater London Leopards against Newcastle Eagles on Saturday

# clear route to clean-up LARS NIEBERG collected the

Nieberg's

winner-takes-all reward of £11,000 after jumping Loro Piana Albertino to four clear rounds in yesterday's Vink Masters on the fourth day of the Olympia Show Jumping Cham-

The German rider left his two closest rivals - Ludger Beerbaum (also from Germany; and Britain's John Whitaker - with just the £1,000 that went to each of the six losers. Whitaker failed when Virtual Village Randi hit the second part of the final double in the fourth round, before Beerbaum and Champion de Lys took a rail off the big oxer at fence three.

Revised rules meant that there would have been a timed jump-off had the competition gone to a fifth round but, unfortunately, we were denied such a final showdown between top riders.

Pleasing though it was, the prize could not compensate Nieberg for the loss of his top horse, For Pleasure, who will go to a young German rider after this show. The stallion's owner, Robert Diestal, is apparently dissatisfied with Nieberg's record during his four years with the horse - even though it includes two runners-up prizes in the Volvo World Cup final and team gold medals at the

GENEVIEVE MURPHY at Olympia

Olympics and the world and European championships.

Last year Beerbaum won both the World Cup qualifier and the Masters at Olympia. John Whitaker must have been hoping to achieve the same double after his World Cup victory here on Saturday when he completed a wonderfully swift jump-off round on 19-year-old Grannusch.

Whitaker had thought of retiring his venerable partner 12 months ago, but the horse has been in sparkling form this year, winning the first two legs of the World Cup final in April as well as the qualifier here. The Olympia victory once again underlined Whitaker's remarkable talent for keeping older horses fit and happy, as did his win in this year's British Jumping Derby at Hickstead on 21-year-old Gammon.

Robert Smith and another sprightly veteran. 18-year-old Senator Tees Hanauer, won yesterday's Vink Mistletoe Stakes. Although 14 horses were left to jump after his whirlwind round. Smith was always confident that he had outpaced the opposition and

# Loughtonians flourish indoors

OLD LOUGHTONIANS gave notice of their intent of regaining their national indoor title with a powerful display of aggressive hockey as they strolled to a comprehensive Premier Holidays East Super League victory at Aldenham School over the

As their coach, captain and this year and we intend to go for it." The signing of Guild- the two West qualifiers. ford's player-coach Ian Jennings, who for more than a record, won the North qualifidecade has had a successful in- er with second-placed Hull also door career with St Albans, will going through to the prelimihelp their chances and cer- nary rounds of the national

corner conversion rate. The surprise team of the event was Dunton Engineering who started with a shock 8-6 win against St Albans and finished in second place behind the Old to two Southgate players, Pietro Hospital.

BY BILL COLWILL

Attalla who scored most of the goals, and Kwandane Browne, who captained Trinidad at the

Commonwealth Games. Eiko Rott, Southgate's German striker, dominated the manager, the Scottish in- South championship with his ternational Colin Hector, said: club qualifying along with West "Realistically, indoors is the London Institute for the naonly chance of us winning a title tional rounds. Yeov: l & Sherborne and Firebrands were

Norton, with a 100 per cent tainly improve their penalty competition.

The DTZ Midland competition was abandoned when a goalkeeper in the Olton & West Warwick game against Stourport at the Perdiswell Centre died a few minutes after Boys. They owed their success admission to the Worcester

SWIMMING

# Bradley severely censured | Swiss miss is finally a hit

THE BRADFORD Bulls' recently retired captain. Graeme Bradley, has been "severely censured and reprimanded for remarks made about the referee, Stuart Cummings, after the defeat by St Helens in the

Super League play-offs. Bradley was sent off but later found not guilty of using antee with the League. an a local newspaper column that have brought this delayed action from the Rugby League, although it is difficult to see what effect it will have on him, now that he is no longer directly involved in the game.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

The New York Jets won their first

AFC Eastern Divisional title on Saturday as Vinny Testaverde threw a pair of touchdowns in their 17-10 victory over the Buffalo Bills.

NET (Saturday): Buffalo Bills 10 New Sets 17; Washington 20 Tampa day 6.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE EASTERN DIVISION

ATHLETICS

Andy Pearson got home by the width of his jersey to take the Reebok Cross-Country Challenge at Cumbernauld on Saturday. Pearson and Dominic Bannister had drawn clear

of the pack during the four-lap con-test, Bannister fighting back on the line as both men recorded times of

26min 46sec. However. Pearson was given the narrowest of victories by the judges, although there was some consolation for Bannis-

res by the Judges, and ough there was some consolation for Bannister, who retains the overall advanaiter three of the five races.

WISLD CROSS-COUNTRY CHALLENGE (Brussels) Men (10.5km race): IR Limo (Ken) 32.14 seconds 2.14 Metonen (Eth) 32.15: 3 P Koech (Ken) 32.17: 4 T Nyariki (Men) 32.25: 5 P Kosgel (Ken) 32.43: 6 C Jorgensen (Den) 32.45: 7 Mohammed Mourhit (Pel) 32.46: 8 A Mezegebu (Eth) 32.57: 9 H Jifar (Eth) 33.07: 10 P Ofmedo (Mer) 33.25 Standings: 1 Limo 25 points; 2 Mekonen 22: 3 Koech 19: 4 Nyariki 17: 5 Kosgel 16: Moman (6km race): 1 G Waml (Eth) 20.34: 4 P Radcliffe (GB) 20.38: 5 Morau (Eth) 20.34: 4 P Radcliffe (GB) 20.35: 3 Morau (Eth) 20.34: 4 P Radcliffe (GB) 20.35: 10: 8 Chephemei (Ken) 21.22: 9 L Malot (Ken) 21.25: 10 A Smolders (Bel) 21.31: Standings: 1 Wami 2505ts; 2 Sandell 22: 3 Worku 19: 4 Radcliffe 17: 5 Denboba 16. REEEBOK BRITISH CROSS CHALLENGE (Glasgom, Saturday): Men

Divisional Champions

## RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

The League has also introduced a system of licensing for players' agents. In future, agents will have to be approved and to deposit a £30,000 guar-

"Clubs will not deal with unlicensed agents," said a League spokesman.

The destination of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final for the two years when Wembley will be under redevelopment has been decided and could be

(Aberdeen) 24:26; 12 S Partridge (City of Glasgow) 24:28: 13 T Thomson (Pit-reavie) 24:30; 14 P Powell (Blackburn) 24:30; 15 N Lee (Huncote) 24:43.

BASKETBALL

SAINSBURY'S CLASSIC COLA NA-TIONAL CUP Semi-finals: Greater Lon-don Leopards 98 Newcastle Eagles 95 (or); Sheffield Sharks 78 Tharnes Valley Tigers

66.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE (Sat): London
Towers 86 Manchester Giants 91.

UND-BALL TROPHY (Sat): Leicester
Riders 83 Milton Keynes Llons 76.

BIATHLON

BIATHLON

WORLD CUP (Bratislava): Men's
10km: 1 5 Fischer (Ger) 24min 36.1sec
(one penalty lap after the shooting): 2
O Maluhins (Lat) 24:54.6 (0): 3 R Poirce
(Fr) 24:55.3 (0). 12.5km Pursoft: 1 5
Fischer (Ger) 33:11.1 (2): 2 R Poirce (Fr)
43.7 (3): 3 P Rostovisev, Russla. 44.5
(1). Overall standings (after 6
events): 1 Fischer 134: 2 Poirce 125:
3 Rostovtsev 121. Momen's 7.5km: 1
5 Greiner-Petter-Memm (Gery) 20min 33.2sec (no penalty laps after the
shooting): 2 U Disl (Ger) 20:37.8 (1):
3 L Grete Skjelbreid (Nor) 21:00.2 (1).
10km Pursuit: 1 U Disl (Ger) 31min 26.5sec (3 penalty laps): 2 Greiner-Petter-Memm (Ger) +13.3sec (3): 3 K Apel
(Ger) +15.6 (3). Overall standings
(after 6 events): 2 Disl 154pts (3 vc.
tories): 2 Forsberg 154 (2): 3 GreinerPetter-Memm 142.

BOBSLEIGH

WORLD CUP (La Plagne, Fr): Four-man: 1 Germany | 1min 55.30sec; 2 Switzerland | 1:55.76; 3 Germany III 1:55.82; 4 Latvia 1:55.86; 5 France 1 1:55.95.

Floyd Mayweather retained his World Boxing Council super-feath-erweight title by stopping his fel-low American Angel Manfredy in the second round of their scheduled 12-

low American Angel Manfredy in the second round of their scheduled 12-round bout in Milami on Saturday. WORLD BONING UNION MD-DLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONISHIP (Brindsi, It): A Cardamone (It) bit Strandsi, It): A Cardamone (It) bit Strandsin, It): A Cardamone (It): A C

announced this week. A few loose ends remain to be tied up with the sponsors before a major rugby union ground -Twickenham, Murrayfield or Cardiff - is confirmed as the venue for 2000 and 2001.

The draws for the Cup from the fifth-round stage onwards will be made live on BBC's Sunday Grandstand The BBC will once more

screen two matches each weekend from the fourth round, when Super League clubs enter the competition, and the draw will be made after the Sunday televised game.

CRICKET

The first Test between New Zealand

off the match with two days remaining took into account the state of the ground, as well as adverse weather forecasts for tomorrow. If

the weather improves today, the two sides will stage a 50-overs day/night exhibition match.

exhibition match.

In Faisalabad, fog again made play impossible on the fourth day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and Zimbabwe. With the African side leading the series 1-0, they are now virtually certain of sealing their first overseas Test series victory.

TOUR MATCH (Pletermanitzburg, SA): Second day of four West Indies 256-6 (5 Chanderpaul 132no) v South Africa A. SHEFFELD SHELD (Second day of four) Sydney: New South Wales 360 (P A Emery 58; M Innes 4-69, S K Warne 2-80); Victoria 219-3 (B J Hodge 120, M P Mott 62); Brisbane: Queensland 164 and 127-7 (M L Hayden 51; C R Miller 2-23.

Mott 63: Brisbane: Cueenstand 164 and 127-7 (M L Hayden 51; C R Miller 2-23. G Denton 2-23); Tasmania 229 (D F Hills 60, M J D Venuto 59: A J Bichel 4-102). Perth: South Australia 503-6 dec (D A Fitzgerald 167, J M Vaughan 157no, B A Johnson 73); Western Australia 182-3 (J L Langer 64).

EQUESTRIANISM

HYTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING CHAMPTONSHIPS (Olympia, London) Transdata World Cap Qualifier 1 Virtual Vilage Grannusch (J Whitaker, GB) clear, 28, 47 sec, 2 Poor Boy (B Magndi, Swit; clear, 29, 13; a Virtual Vilage Ashley (M Whitaker, GB) clear, 30, 65; 4 Calvaro V (M Welliger, Swit; clear, 35, 35; 5; 5) Dulf (L McNaught, Swit; clear, 35, 36; 6) Virtual Village It's Otto (B Billington, GB) 3 faults, 41, 62; World Cap Europann Leaguer 1 B Mándi (Swit; 55pts; 2 T Coyle (Iril) 40; 3 M Whitaker (GB) 39; 4) 1 Nop (Hol) 32; 5= J Fisher (GB), R Bril (Hol), W Melliger (Swit), 27. Other British: 13= J Whitaker, N Skelton, R Smith 20, Transdata Rop Score: 1 It's Me (L Beerbaum, Ger), 1,340pts, 56, 78 sec; 2 Nissan Catango Z (J Lasins, Hol) 1,220, 48 52; 3 Loro Pana Icamorka J Smit, It), 1,220, 61, 12; 4 Transdata Gienwood Springs (T Scockdas, GB), 1,170, 54, 16; 5 Gravur O04 (B Maendi), Swit), 1,110, 46, 80; 6 Cormetto (L Pedersen, Den), 1,040, 55, 93, PéO Bresss Christmas Carrol Szaluss: 1 San Parlinghano Very (F Stoothaak, Ger), 47,75sec; 2 Loro Pana Leonidas (L Meberg, Ger), 49,79; 3 BB Corlanda (W Melliger, Swit), 49,30; 4 Virtual Village Do It (N Skelton, GB), 49,92; 5 Cardy Foos (P Leieune, Bel), 50,85; 6 Pecer Pan V (B Mandi), Swit), 51,30, Vink Masslers (W Memert-Lakes-all); 1 L Nieberg (Ger), 4 clear rounds, Vilak Mistleboe Stakes; 1 Senator Tees Hanauer (R Smith, GB), clear, 46,00sec; 2 Corlanda (W Melliger, Swit), 1432, 47,76; 3 Valisha Forever (P Lejeune, Bel), clear, 47,6; 3 Val

and India was abandoned on Su day without a ball being bowled af-ter being rained off for the third consecutive day. The decision to call

SWISS FANS were finally able to jangle their cow bells in celebration when Karin Roten won a World Cup slalom yesterday and ended two years of disappointment for her country.

Roten won on home snow in Veysonnaz, ending a humiliating drought for Swiss women that stretched back to January 1997 when Heidi Zurbriggen won a downhill in Cortina. Her compatriot, Michael Von Grünigen, capped a good day for the country when he won the men's World Cup giant slalom in Alta Badia after a superb second run.

"It's a bit of a relief, it was important for Switzerland because we needed a win, or at

least a podium this season." Roten said. Holding a slim 0.23sec advantage over the America's Kristina Koznick after the first leg, Roten charged down the deteriorating Piste d'Ours course in a combined time of 1min 28.81sec. crossing the line to the clang of cow bells and wild cheers.

In Italy, Von Grünigen, the 1997 giant sialom world champion, finished in a combined

41.01sec to claim his first World Cup victory of the season.The Norwegian Lasse Kjus was 10th but kept his lead in the men's overall standings.

time for the two runs of 2min

On Saturday, the men's World Cup downhill in Val Gardena saw the French Olympic champion, Jean-Luc Cretier, crash badiy. He was taken to hospital with a career-threatening knee injury. Kristian Ghedina won the race in 2min

In Veysonnaz, Alexandra Meissnitzer of Austria won her first World Cup downhill.

### SPORTING DIGEST

### FOOTBALL

TRANSPERS: David Lee (defender)
Chelsea to Bristol Rovers (free); Birkir
Kristinsson (goakeeper) Norköpping
(Swe) to Botton (free): Don Goodman
(forward) Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Japan)
to Barnsley (Joan); Howard Forleton
(farward) Birmingham to Plymouth
(Joan); Glenn Crowe (forward) Wolves
to Plymouth (trial).

COOLUM CLASSIC (Coolum, Aas) Leading final-round scores (Ausuniess stated): 271 5 Appleby 69 70 63 69: 275 C Spence 65 67 71 72: 278 C Parry 72 68 69 69. T Carolan 72 71 70 65: 279 P Senior 73 70 65 71. 5 Laycock 71 69 69 70. M Cain 70 71 68 70. Other: 294 D Warson (Eng) 73 73 76 72.

HOCKEY

ASIAN GAMES (Banglosk) Men's final:
Korea 1 india 1 (india win 4-2aps); Third
place play-off: Pakistan 3 Japan 0.
Women's final: Korea 2 India 1; Third
place play-off: China 2 Japan 0.
PREMER HOLDAYS EAST Premier:
Bishop's Stortford 1 Colchester 4.
SOUTH Premier: Beckenham 1 Purley
Walcountains 1.

SUTTH Premier: Secondary 1 Puricy Walcountains 1.

SURREY CUP Second round: Old Cranleighans 8 Barnes 0.

PREMIER HOLIDAYS EAST INDOOR SUPER LEAGUE (Aldenham School) (Saturday): Dunton Engineering 8 St Abans 6: Blueharts 4 Chelmsford 8: Spalding 7 Dunton Engineering 9: Old Loughtonians 8 Blueharts (Sunday): Blueharts 4 St Albans 4: Spalding 8 Chelmsford 8: Dunton Engineering 1 Old Loughtonians 8 Chelmsford 9 Dunton Engineering 4: Old Loughtonians 8 Chelmsford 9 Dunton Engineering 8: St Albans 4 Old Loughtonians 13 Chelmsford 9 Dunton Engineering 8: St Albans 4: Old Loughtonians 13 Dunton Engineering 8: St Albans 4: Old Loughtonians 13 Dunton Engineering 8: St Albans 8: Old Loughtonians 6: Old Loughtonians 6: Old Loughtonians 6: Old Loughtonians 6: Dunton Quality).

Abans 8. (Old Loughtonians & Dunton quality).

SOUTH INDOOR CLUB CHAMPI-ONSHIP (Epsom College): Purley Welcountains 3 Lewes 11: Maddenhead 8 Ramgarina 13; Portsmouth & Southsea 7 Old Bordenlans 4; Old Holcombelans 0 Southgate 12; Bromley 11 Purley Walcountains 4; West London Institute 17 Maidenhead 9; Eastcote 16 Portsmouth & Southsea 4; City of Portsmouth & Southsea 4; City of Portsmouth 5 Old Holcombelans 3; Lewes 6 Bromley 7; Ramgariha 6 West London Institute 11; Old Bordenlans 8 Eastcote 10; Southgate 12 City of Portsmouth 7, Semi-fluals: Bromley 3 Southgate 11; Eastcote 8 West London Institute quality).

NORTH INDOORE Stockton 3 Sheffield Bankers 15; Norton 5 Hull 2; Doncaster 15 Stockton 2; Sheffield Bankers 19 Norton 4; Hull 6 Doncaster 4. Final standings: 1 Norton 12pts: 2 Hull 9; 3 Sheffield Bankers 6 (Norton and Hull quality).

quality).
DTZ Midland Indoor Championship
(Birmingham) Pool A: Barford
Tigers 5 Edgbaston 0; Mansfield 1 Barford Tigers 16: Cannock 5 Edgbaston

O: Edgbaston O Mansfield 5: Mansfield O Cannock 6: Cannock 2 Barford Tigers 9 (Barford Tigers quality). Pool B: Khalsa 6 South Notts 5: Leek 6 Khalsa 4: Bridgnorth 4 South Notts 1: South Notts 1: Leek 5: Leek 5 Bridgnorth 2: Bridgnorth 2 Khalsa 3 (Leek quality). [Worcester] Pool C: Harborne 13 Bromsgrove 2: Loughborough Students 9 Harborne 6: Nottingham 10 Bromsgrove 3: Bromsgrove 1 Loughborough Students 7 Nottingham 12 Harborne 5 (Loughborough Students 7 Nottingham 13 Nottingham 14 Nottingham 15 Nottingham 16 Nottingham 16 Nottingham 17 Nottingham 17 Nottingham 17 Nottingham 17 Nottingham 18 Nottingham 1 12 Harborne 5 (Loughborough Students qualify). Pool D: Stourport 8 Sikh Union 1; Olton & West Warwick 2 Stourport 2 (Match and tournament obandoned following collapse of a planes?)

MORTH Indoor (Peterlee): Norton 6 Doncaster 5: Sheffield Bankers 1 Hull 3. Stockton 4 Norton 8: Doncaster 6 Sheffield Bankers 7: Hull 14 Stockton I.

BALTERA CUP (Micacowi): Russia 2 Finland 2: Sweeden 2 Czech Republic 1: Sweden 5 Russia 3 (Sweden win
tournament): Czech Republic 6 Canada
3 (Czech Republic 6 Canada
3 (Czech Republic 6 Canada
3 (Czech Republic finish second).
NHIL (Sazurday): Edmonton 4 Tampa
Bay 1: Buffalo 4 Montreal 2: Dallas 3
Detroit 1: Calgary 5 New Jersey 2:
Ottawa 5 Carolina 1: Anaheim 2 NY
Islanders 2 (ort. (Sunday): Philadelphia
3 Chicago 1: Boston 4 Detroit 1: Montreal 1 New Jersey 1 (ort; Toronto 7 NY
Rangers 4; Carolina 3 Buffalo 2: Florida 3 Edmonton 1; Pritisburgh 3 Washington 0: St. Louis 5 Los Angeles 2:
Nastwijfe 6 Vancouver 4; San Jose 2 Colorado 1.
SEKONDA SUPER LEAGUE (Saturday): Cardiff 5 Ayr 2: Newcastle 1
Sheffield 5. ICE HOCKEA

LUGE

WORLD CUP (Winterberg, Ger): Men's singles: 1 G Hacki (Ger) 1:50.486 (55.439. 55.047); 2 M Prock (Aut) 1:50.578 (5.611, 54.967); 3 A Headt (US) 1:50.785 (55.739, 55.046). First 1:30.278 (3.611, 54.967); 3 A Heddt (US) 1:50.785 (55.739, 55.046). Scandings (after four events); 1 Hackl 309; 2 Proch 290, 3 Zoeggeler (It) 287. Doubless: 1 M Grimmette, B Martin (US) 1min 32.641sec (1st run 46.663sec, 2nd run 45.978); 2 T Schiegi, M Schiegi (Aut) 1:32,902 (46.783, 46.119); 3 P Leitner, A Resch (Ger) 1:33.052 (46.961, 46.091). Leading standings (after four events); 1 Grimette, Martin 312pts; 2 Schiegi 301; 3= C Nicoum, M McLain (US) 286. Women's singless: 1 S kraushaar (Ger) 1:33.789 (46.105, 47.68a); 2 S Erdmann (Ger) 1:34.033 (46.330, 47.703); 3 B Niedernhuber (Ger) 1:34.061 (45.875, 48.186). Leading standings (after four events); 1 Otto 320pts; 2 Kraushaar 316; 3 Niedernhuber 301.

NORDIC SKIING WORLD CUP (Damos, Swit) Men's 30/km classic: 1 B Dachile (Nor) 1hr 14min 49.2se; 2 A Profurorov (Rus) +30.1sec; 3 M Borvinov (Aut) +1min 25.8sec; 4 E Jewne (Nor) +1:30.5; 5 M Fredriksson (Swe) +1:39.2. Overall World Cup standings: 1 Dachile 380pts: 2 Fredriksson 276; 3 Elofsson

222. Aq10km freestyle/classic relay: 1 Norway 1hr 38min 48.2 sec: 2 Sweden 1:36:48.5; 3 Austria 1:39:27.1. Women's 15km classic: 1 O Danilova (Rus) 41min 11.0sec: 2 B Martinsen (Nor) +0.2sec: 3 L Lazutina (Rus) +11.6, 4 N Gavriljuh (Rus) +13.3. Overall World Cun standimer: 1 Martinsen 294nrs: 2

MOSCONI CUP (Bethnal Green, London): United States 7 Europe 6.
Details (US names first): E Strickland and K Davenport br O Ortmann and S Knight 7-1: N Varner and J Archer br M Immonen and R Souquet 7-5. R Pierce and J Rempe lost to S Davis and F Petroni 7-1

RUGBY LEAGUE

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Second
round (Saturday): Askam 25 Heworth
22: Beverley East Hull 12 Townwille 28:
Dodworth 12 Castleford Lock Lane 24;
Dudley Hill 29 Wigan St Patricks 8: Eccles
37 Normanton 16: Moldgreen 21 Oulton 18: Norland 39 Crosfields 0: Oldham 5t Annes 34 Ellenborough 6;
Cucens 28 West Hull 40: Rochdale Mayfield 28 Hull Dockers 10; Saddleworth
10 Walney Central 6; Siddal 24 Featherstone MW 7; Skirlaugh 8 Ideal Isberg
2: Thornhill 25 Barrow Island 12, Wigan
Rose Br 6 Leigh MR 17; Wigan St Judes
32 Woodston 8. Postponed: Egremont
y Haydock; Feathersone Lions y Ovenden (Yesterday): Wath Brow 16 London Skolars 10.

SAILING

Andy Green has been invited by the America's Cup skipper John Kollus to join the afterguard of the Aloha tune-up boat in Hawaii next year. Green, one of Britain's brightest young match racing prospects, has also signed a two-year deal giving him and his crew - Jim Turner, Gerard Mitchell and Tim Powell - backing on the world circuit from the reinsurance group, Margent International. ternational.

ternational.

Giovanni Soldini extended his lead to 129 miles over second-placed Marc Thiercelin on the second leg of the Around Alone Race from Cape Town to Auckland yesterday. With 2.600 miles to go and a New Year's Eve finish predicted, Mike Golding has moved Britain's Group 4 to within six miles of Thiercelin, while Issaels Audistoir siloned a further 200. abelle Audssier slipped a further 200

GAEN'S ALPINE WORLD CUP (Wai Gardesa, it) Downshill: 1 K Gnedina (it) 2min 04.17sec; 2 L Kyus (Nor) 2.04.31: 3 W Franz (Aut) 2.04.45: 4 H Maier (Aut) 2:04.65: 5 K A Asmodt (Nor) 2:05.10. Did not start: A Freshwater (GB). Downshill standings (after three races): 1 L Kyus (Nor) 280pts: 2 K Ghedina (it) 150; 3 W Franz (Aut)

140; 4 H Maier (Aut) 110; 5 L Catta-neo (II) 107. Glant Sialom (Alta Badtia, It): 1 M Von Gruenigen (Swit) 2mln 41.01sec (first kg 1:18,56. sec-ond leg 1:22.45); 2 P Holzer (It) 2:41.77 (1:18.42/1:23.35); 3 A Schif-ferer (Aut) 2:42.26 (1:19.13/1:23.13); ferer (Aut) 2:42.26 (1:19.13/1:23.13); 4 H Maier (Aut) 2:42.84 (1:19.45/1:23.39); 5 R Satzgeber (Aut) 2:42.90 (1:19.68/1.23.22) Glant standings: 1 Eberharter 180pts: 2 Von Gruenigen 171; 3 Mayer (Aut) 150; 5 Hotzer 140, Leading overall standings: 1 Kigus 519; 2 Maier 440; 3 Eberharter 403; 4 Aamodt 401, 5 Mayer 382, WOMEN'S ALPINE WORLD CUP (Versonnaz, Switt) Downhill: 1 A WOMEN'S ALPINE WÖRLD CUP (Weysonax, Swit: Doenrhill: 1 A Meissmitzer (Aut) 1min 42.68sec; 2 R Cavagnoud (Fr) 1:43.00; 3 R Götschi (Aut) 1:43.17; 4 C Rey-Beifet (Swit; 1:43.46; 5 F Masnada [Fr] 1:43.47. Leading doenrhill overall standings: 1 Götschi 278pts: 2 Meissnitzer 255; 3 Kostner 192; 4 H Gerg 189; 5 Cavagnoud 186, Statom: 1 K Roten (Swit) 1min 28.81sec (42.08/46.72); 2 K Koznick (US) 1:29.31 (42.32/46.99); 3 A Paerson (Swe) 1:29.62 (43.05/46.57); 4 P Wilberg (Swe) 1:29.75 (43.20); 43.20

SKI JUMPING WORLD CUP (Harravos, Cz Rep): 1 J Ahonen (Fin) 109.0m, 132 0m, 235.3pts; 2 R Hornschuh (Ger) 110.0, 126.0, 221.8; 3 K Funaki (Japan) 107.5, 123.5, 217.8 Overall standings (after seven events): 1 M Schmitt (Ger) 540pts; 2 Ahonen 508: 3 Funaki 406; 4 S Hannawald (Ger) 233: 5 N Kasai (Japan) 232

IRISH OPEN (Dublin) Semi-finals: A McManus (Sco) bt 7 Drago (Malta) 6-3: M Williams (Wal) bt J Parrott (Eng) 6-1. SPEED SKATING

SPEED SKATING

WORLD CUP (Chunchon, 5 Ker):
Man's 500m: 1 J Wotherspoon (Can)
36.54sec: 2 Jaegal Sung-yeui (5 Kor)
36.80; 3 J Inoue (Japan) 36.81: 4 H
Shimizu (Japan) 36.85: 5 T Kurolwa
(Japan) 36.85: 6 C Fitzrandolph (US)
36.88: 7 M Horu (Japan) 37.04: 8 T Swist
(Pol) 37.05. 1,000m: 1 J Wotherspoon
(Can) 1 min 13.35sec: 2 P Abrachlewcz
(Pol) 1:14.63: 3 J Parker (Can) 1:14.81:
4= T Kurolwa (Japan. Chof Jea-bong (5
Kor) 1:14.87: 6 C Fitzkandolph (US)
1:14.93; 7 E Ioriatu (It) 1:15.03: 8 J Hanninen (Fin) 1:15.60. Women's 500ms:
1 M Garbrecht (Ger) 39.74: 2 C LeMayDoan (Can) 39.77: 3 E Sanmiy (Japan)
39.89: 4 E Therese Holsech (Nor) 40.14.
5 C Witty (US) 40.37: 6 C Zummack (Ger)
40,39; 7 Manil Wang (Ch) 40.60: 8 Rulhong Xue (Ch) 40.72. 1,000ms: 1 M Garbrecht (Ger) 1:20.77; 2 C Witty (US)
1:20.95: 3 E Sanmiya (Japan) 1:21.02:
4 C LeMay-Doan (Can) 1:21.17: 5 A
Conoline (Japan) 1:21.94: 8 A Sannes (US)
1:22.12; 7 E Therese Holsech (Nor)

SWIMMING

BRITISH SHORT COURSE CHAMPIONSHIPS (Glasgow) Men: 50th
butterfly: 1 M Jones (Ealing) 24,55
Weish Record). 2 G Pillips (Havant &
Waterlooville) 24,69; 3 S Mavin
(Loughborough Univ) 24,95, 100m
backstroke: 1 J Hickman (Leeds)
53,45; 2 N Wiley (Bath Univ) 53,74,
35 Parry (Liverpool) 54,15 100m butterfly: 1 C Foot (York) 1:01,18, 2 N
Jackson (Derwentside) 1,01,47 (British
Junior Record): 3 M Peddet
(Portsmouth) and G Lee (Camphill
Edwardlans) 1,01,77, 100m breastsstroke: 1 D Mew (Bath University)
Imin 0,70 sec; 2 R Maden (Bath University)
Indiversity 1:02,43, 100m freestyle:
1 J Hickman (Leeds) 48,57sec; 2 S
Brinn (Bath University) 48,98: 3 M
Kidd (Leatherhead) 49,33, 100m
Individual medley: 1 N Poole
(Portsmouth) 57,20sec; 2 P Pote
(Bath University) 57,90: 3 D Carry
(Aberdeen) 58,98, 200m butterfly:
1 D Wigg (Newcastie) 2:00,08: 2 E
Clement (Killerwhales) 2:01,24; 3 C
Jones (Newcastie) 2:00,08: 2 E
Clement (Killerwhales) 2:01,24; 3 C
Jones (Newcastie) 2:00,08: 2 E
Clement (Killerwhales) 2:01,24; 3 C
Jones (Newcastie) 2:00,08: 2 E
Clement (Killerwhales) 2:01,24; 3 C
Jones (Newcastie) 2:00,08: 2 E
Clement (Killerwhales) 2:01,24; 3 C
Jones (Newcastie) 2:01,49,1500m
freestyle: 1 G Smith (Stockport)
14:46,56; 2 I Wilson (Leeds) 15:06,78,
3 G Orphanides (Portsmouth)
15:18 41, 4x100m medley relay: 1
Bath University 3:38,72; 2 Edibourgh
3:46,37,
Womea: 50m beckstroke: 1 K Sev-

Bath University 3:38.72; 2 Edinburgh 3:43.42; 3 Loughborough University 3:46 37.
Whomea: 50m backstroke: 1 K Sevton (Portsmouth) 29.33, 2 K Jiggins (Coventry) 29.59; 3 Z Cray (Ipswich) 29.59; 50m freestyle: 1 A Sheppard (Milingavie & Bearsden) 25 10; 2 S Hopkins (Loughborough University) 25.95, 3 C Davies (Leeds) 26.09, 100m braaststroke: 1 L Hindmarsh (Leeds) 19.68; 2 H Earp (Nova Centurion) 1:09 92; 3 E Dutton (Leeds) 1:11.82, 100m individual mediley: 1 D Borland (Ren 96) 1:04.92; 2 K Evans (Nova Centurion) 1:05.41; 3 J Lyes (Hillingdon) 1:05.10, 200m freestyle: 1 C Huddart (Leeds) 1:58.61; 2 K Pickering (Ipswich) 1:59.23; 3 V Horner (Stockport Metros) 2:00.52 200m individual mediley: 1 S Rolph (Newcastle) 2:13.08; 2 K Evans (Nova Centurion) 2:18.80, 3 S Nesblt (Portsmouth) 2:19.74, 400m freestyle: 1 K Legg (Ferndown) 4:09.75, 2 V Horner (Stockport) 4:10.66; 3 C Smart (Millheld) 4.11.66. Au:100m freestyle relay: 1 Loughborough University 3:45.20; 2 Nova Centurion 3:46.44; Au:100m medley relay: 1 Loughborough University 4:17.22; 2 Newcastle 4:17.58; 3 Nova Centurion 4.18 12.

GROBANK TOUR (Nottingham) Men's final: N Weal (GB) or P Hand (GB) 6-4 6-4. Women's final: J Lutrova (Rus) or K Warne-Holland (GB) 6-0 6-3.

VOLLEYBALL MEN'S INTERNATIONAL (Glasgow): Scotland 0 England 3 (7-15, 10-15, 11-15).

# 4 Raddiffe 17: 5 Denboba 16. REEBOR SRITISH CROSS CHALLENGE (Glasgom, Saturday): Blen (8,000m): 1 A Pearson (Blugley) Z6min (8,000m): 1 A Pearson (Blugley) Z6min (45ec: 2 D Banister (Shafresbury Barner) 26: 46: 3 B Outin (Klbastchan): 5 C Robison (Inverciscle) 27:23: 6 D Leggate (Fife) 27:54: 7 C Wood (Bristol) 28:01: 8 / Pearce (Tipton) 28:08: 9 D McNellty (Nirl) 28:10: 10 A Puckrin (Tipton) 28:14: 11 A Coleman (Enfield) 28:23, 12 G Hull (Leeds) 28:24: 13 G Pyrah (Edinburgh) 28:33: 14 G fhompson (Crawley) 28:35: 15 S Cairns (Nirl) 28:36 Women (6,000m): 1 V McPherson (City of Slasgow) 23min 04sec; 2 B Dagne (Esses) 23:06: 3 L Winght (Leeds) 23:20: 4 H Heasman (Altrinchan; 023:30: 5 A Mudge (Carnethy) 23: 46 T Kryzwicki (Charnwood) 23: 47 Lingham (Barnsley) 23:51: 8 L MacDougall (Glasgow) 24:02: 9 V Wilkinson (Bingley) 24:11: 10 L Talbot (Bedford) 24:21: 11 T Brindley

# Cherry-picking Tigers eat their fill

IT IS ONLY a weak ligament we are talking about here; not a snapped Achilles, or a broken back, or an all-over stress fracture of the body, but a measly centimetre of fibrous connective tissue supporting the muscle structure of Phil Vickery's bull neck. Sadly, for the Kingsholm faithful, this apparently modest orthopaedic complication has left a once virile Gloucester pack in a state of collective emasculation. From unique to eunuch in a matter of weeks.

Vickery's condition, not yet career-threatening but of profound concern to both player and club, goes to the heart – or, rather, the balls – of Gloucester's predicament. Shorn of basic law of rugby physics: the raw strength their 22-year-namely, that what goes back in old Cornishman brings to their the scrum goes out with a front row, Gloucester have no set-piece platform worthy of the name. And that means trouble international tight forwards



Leicester

with knobs on. It does not take a scientific mind of Newtonian stature to arrive at the most

Bristling with a nap hand of

and a titan of a No 8 in Martin solutely right before we pick are far too well endowed to re-Corry, Leicester inflicted upon the Cherry and Whites a masting of such hellish proportions that the visiting backs could afford an afternoon off and still pocket the spoils of victory. was possible to listen to a Wagner opera in the time it took England's former full-back to complete his kicking routine, he at least gave the Gloucester heavy brigade ample opportunity to reflect on their inade-

Disturbingly for the Kingsholm infantry, the Vickeryshaped cavalry is not expected to arrive for another five weeks at least. "I can't see Phil playing before February," said Richard Hill, the Gloucester coach. "We need to get him ab-

him again, because no one in their right mind takes chances with a neck injury. He's had CT scans, MRI scans, brain scans, you name it, and none of them have revealed any structural Three of Tim Stimpson's six damage. But he does have a lig-played to the strengths that repenalties came as a direct re- ament weakness, and it's a sesult of the Tigers' scrummag- rious problem, especially for a make light of the temporary abing superiority. And, while it prop. If you have a dodgy ankle ligament, you can strap the ankle. What you can't do is

> "Phil is worried about the long-term implications for his career and I don't blame him. He must be thinking: 'Hey, I'm 22 and if I'm not very careful, I could find myself back on the family farm shovelling pig manure.' It's a desperate shame, not least because he has such a big future internationally. He can't even run at the moment because it would jar his neck."

By sharp contrast, Leicester

strap a neck.

gard any one player as indispensible; having arrived in the Cotswolds without Joel Stransky, Will Greenwood and Nnamdi Ezulike, they simply shrugged their shoulders and mained. They even managed to

sence of their outstanding captain, Martin Johnson, who was sin-binned at the end of the first quarter for his frank and forthright contribution to a nasty little flare-up at the coalface. Gloucester attempted to capitalise, but failed so miserably that Johnson returned

points to the good. Indeed, there was an air of inevitability about the proceedings, despite Gloucester second try three minutes into

the second half - a carefully

from his lonely dressing-room

vigil to find his own side three

planned strike created by Steve Ojomoh's inspired blind-side feed from the base of an unstable scrum and completed by Mark Mapletoft in the right corchampions. ner. Although Mapletoff's handsome conversion left Leicester

11-15 down, there was something distinctly false about the deficit; sure enough, Corry and company changed up a gear, pitched camp in the Gloucester half and earned Stimpson enough shots at goal to wrap up the result.

"They're title material." acknowledged Hill, bluntly adding that his own side were quite the opposite. "The Leicester pack is the best in the business at scrum time; they work overtime in that area and have based their whole game

"Not many sides can hold them up front, and, if you add to that their consistency, the

fact that they are more capable than any of their rivals of holding their form, then you have to say they are potential

"As for us, Premiership points are almost of secondary importance now. The priority is to crack the secret of maintaining our concentration and commitment throughout the full 80 minutes of a game, something we still find impossible away from home.

·Ive been here three years now, and it's time we put this whole away thing behind us. Look at the top sides and you see 15 players with real belief that they will win, no matter how bad things might seem. If you have two or three without that belief, as we do, it spreads like a cancer through the whole side. We need to start

believing." Leicester's levels of belief are positively Papal and, even at this relatively early stage of the campaign, it is difficult to argue with the Gospel According to Saint Deano.

"The beauty of these players is their perfectionism," he beamed on Saturday evening. They know the perfect game of rugby is unachieveable, but it doesn't stop them trying." For all their flaws at Kingsholm and they were far from immaculate in many areas - they are well on course for a taste

of heaven in May.

# Bath slump to record fifth defeat

PROFESSIONAL sportsmen By DAVID LLEWELLYN adhere to the principle that you make your luck. If that is the case, then right now Bath are making the wrong sort of luck. Their acting captain, Andy Nicol, not the most fortunate of players when it comes to injury, lasted just nine minutes of the bitter defeat against Saracens before joining a growing queue of casualties in the Bath squad.

Suspected medial ligament damage to his left knee - to be confirmed later today - could keep him out for the rest of the season; at best he will be out of action for a few weeks. When the names of Phil de Glanville, out for 10 weeks after an oper-Mark Regan (two more weeks after concussion, captain Richard Webster (another fortnight) and Jon Preston (four parison with past Bath sides would feel entitled to whinge.

But the reigning European champions, while not playing well, are not panicking yet. If the first thing that their coach. Andy come about through brilliant Robinson, did was to reach for a can of Bath's sponsors' cider after crashing to an unprecerow, no one was blaming him.

"You don't mind me turning to alcohol?" he quipped, before settling down to party the awkward questions. The boos and jeers which had followed Bath off the pitch would still have a diet of incredible success, is been echoing in his head and they would have hurt him. The fans are entitled to

their opinion," acknowledged Robinson between sips. "We deserved it the way we played today." But pain was screwed harshly into the features of the man who shared in some more celebrated records as a player with the once mighty club.

Robinson has more reason than most to bemoan his side's fortunes, but to him they would be mere excuses and he has never resorted to those, "We have to front this up and ask what we are going to do about it," said the former England flanker. "There are a lot of proud people at this club."

And he rejected a suggestion had gone out of the club. "We are just not playing well." insisted Robinson, who has had supporters advising him in no

when you are down, and you are

Mark Evans, Saracens' director of rugby, seemed almost shocked by inept performances from both sides. "This was a shadow of previous Bath sides," he said. "For so long Bath have been in a league of their own. They had an aura about them, ation on his dislocated shoulder, but that clearly does not exist any longer. I wonder if it will Robinson insisted that com-

months after surgery on a rup- was a non-starter. "It is time to tured Achilles tendon) are consign the old, amateur Bath added to the equation, anyone to history where it belongs," he said. "The old Bath was and to be a part of it was fabulous, but now we are into something else. Our history did not rugby, it was because we won.

Winning is the important thing and it's a lot harder these dented fifth league defeat in a days. The game is in a worldwide market and there are players of outstanding talent from overseas playing for English clubs, which was not possible in the amateur era."

The Bath public, weaned on finding a new regimen of defeat unpalatable, but Robinson will not be moved that easily; he has given too much to the club. Nor will he venture into the transfer market. Not for him the short-term solution. He has been nurturing youth and is unafraid to blood the youngsters.

D Lyle, E Peters.
Saracouss: G Johnson: B Dankel, R Con-scoble, S Ravenscroft, R Wallace: A Penaud, K Bracken: D Flatman (B Reidy, 72). G Onuter, P Wallace, (B Reidy 31-40). P Johns, D Grewcock, T Coker (P Ogilvy, 66). T Diprose, F Pienaar (capt). Referere: A Rowden (Thatcham).

losing, things do not go for you. But I am not going to give this up. I am not going to walk out on Bath. I still think there is plenty for us to play for this season and we have the ability."

exist again for anybody."

"I'll be looking at some young players in the club," said Robinson. "We have plenty of options and a lot of talent coming through." The other clubs may have pulled the plug, but not all the water has gurgled down the plughole yet.

Bath: Try Balshaw: Penalties Catt 2,
Saraceas: Try Ravenscroft; Couversion
Johnson: Penalties Johnson 3; Drop goal



# Sweet revenge as the Best men win

DICK BEST, who might have BY TIM GLOVER been a slave driver had he not become a rugby coach, announced that he was giving the London Irish squad Christmas Day off. "I'm weakening,"

he said. Best was imbued with the festive spirit following the Exiles' rousing victory over Harlequins at Sunbury. By 7pm, 8,800 pints had been drunk in the club house bars, and that was just Guinness. A win in the Premiership is always welcome, but beating Quins has almost become one of Best's

London Irish Harlequins

After being dismissed as their coach, Best took the club to an industrial tribunal until Quins settled at the 11th hour. Andy Keast, who was also shown the door at The Stoop, works as Best's assistant at London Irish but in an unofficial capacity. He is being paid by Quins up to June and until that time cannot be employed by any other club. "I don't receive a penny from London

Saturday, he too supped a delicious cocktail called Revenge.

Last season, Quins hit a new low at Sunbury, conceding 60 points. This time round they arrived having won six Premiership matches in a row but were without their player-coach, Zinzan Brooke. Leading 16-10 midway

through the second half. Quins conceded a penalty try for not retreating 10 yards when the Irish were awarded a series of penalties close to their oppo-

Despite a shambolic perfor- starting to gel and it may be the

deserved their success in front of a crowd of 5,460.

They were far more adventurous and their first half try by Stephen Bachop was quite magnificent. Jarrod Cunningham, fielding a kick near his own line, brilliantly turned defence into attack and the move was sustained by Connor

O'Shea in the back row. "Tm very proud," Best said. "We played with some passion and proved we can be a good side if we can win 50 per cent of the line-outs. The team is

Irish," Keast said. Thus, on mance at the line-out, the Irish start of something. This has 19 acres. If they are not allowed, helped make Christmas almost to develop the ground, they tolerable."

London Irish will not get

much of a break. On Boxing Day they play Richmond at the Madejski Stadium. Richmond. of course, felt compelled to move from the Athletic Ground after their plans to develop the facilities were stymied by the local council. London Irish are in a similar position at Sunbury.

They have been talking to Chelsea about a possible move to Stamford Bridge but they have not given up hope of stay-

could sell the land for housing and that might be a more unattractive proposition to the local residents.

Loadon Irish: Try Bachop, Penaky tries Collins, Cumingham (2), Penakties Cumingham (2), Harlegalms: Try Wood, Conversion Schuster, Penakties Schuster (3). Schuster. Pemaittles Schuster (3).
London Irish: C O'Shea (capt), J Bishop.
N Burrows (R Todd, 60), B Venter, J Cunningham (N Woods, 80), S Bachop, K Putt,
N Hatley. M Howe (R Kirite, 60), K Fultman (R Hardwick, 71). R Structwick, M
O'Kelly, J Boer, R Gallacher (K Spicer, 68),
K Dawson.
Harfequins: J Williams, D Liger, D Officer,
J Schuster, D O'Leary (J Keyter, 75), T Lacrobt
(capt), H Harries (C Wright, 36), G Halpin
(D Barnes, 68), K Wood, J Leonard, G Morgan, G Lleweilyn, R Jenkins, C Sheasby, A
Leach.
Reference: E Morrison (RFU).

# Cardiff consider secession

CARDIFF HINTED last night BY DAVID LLEWELLYN they are considering joining another union in the event of possible expulsion or secession from the Welsh Rugby Union. Their chief executive, Gareth Davies, indicated the move after watching Cardiff throw away a substantial lead, and almost certain victory, to slump to their fourth consecutive Anglo-Welsh defeat.

Cardiff, and their fellow rebels Swansea, are refusing to pay a £150,000 fine imposed on them by the WRU for arranging these unsanctioned friendly matches against English clubs. "We are certainly not going to pay the fine," declared Davies. "One option for the WRU is to expel us for not paying the fine. We can't wait until

the 28 February deadline before deciding what to do. We have to look at the options open to us int the event of that."

One of those would be to join the Rugby Football Union, a log-ical step given the Anglo-Welsh set-up, and Davies did not rule that out. "It is almost getting to the stage where we will have to approach another union," he

Cardiff do not even know when they can play Llandovery in the Swalec Cup. Building work at the Arms Park delayed Saturday's fourth round tie. Cardiff have offered any mid-

club claims too many of their amateur players cannot take time off.

So all that is left is the Anglo-Welsh series. And on the evidence of this little thriller, cross-border competition should prove beneficial allround to northern hemisphere rugby. It kept a 4,395 crowd interested to the end despite the

Gregori Kacala, Cardiff's monster Pole at the back of the scrum's one-man stampedes scattered opposition bodies. Behind him Lee Jarvis frequently got his backs moving and the powerful and pacey Leigh Davies posed plenty of problems. His two breaks in the

week date between now and the same move, and his cunning end of January, but the junior grubber kick, led to Cardiff's opening try by stand-off Jarvis. But Wasps' four tries were, in

the end, decisive. The first saw hooker Simon Mitchell speed into the right hand corner, the second came from young prop Andrew Le Chevalier, and the third from replacement hooker Dinos Alexopoulos. Josh Lewsey got the crucial touchdown late in the game.

Waspus Tries Mitchell, Le Crevalier, Alexopoulos, Lewisey, Conversion King, Penal-ties King, 2. Cardiff: Tries Javis, Humphreys, Conversion Javis; Penalities Javis 4

Wheeper J Lewsty, S Rober, L Scrase, N Gree stock, P Sampson, A King, M Wood: A Onevaller, S Mitchell (D Alexopoulos, 64), Green (capt). A Reed, S Shaw (M Weedo

THIS SEASON Newcastle have Newcastle

only fleetingly revealed the form that took them to the title. But they produced enough of it in patches, against a diffi-dent Sale side, to hoist themselves a couple of places up the table in a match which promised much but, which became terribly disjointed in the second half until Garath Archer sealed victory with Newcas-

tie's fifth try. This was the first of four games for Newcastle against teams from the bottom five within the next two weeks. Moreover, with a match in hand over some of their challengers, if Newcastle were to pick up the maximum eight points, they will need no reminding that the outcome of the title race is far

BY PAUL STEPHENS

from a foregone conclusion. And with Sale being the most likely to interrupt those ambitions, the two points they picked up against the Manchester side was a handy start. On a crisp, dry afternoon, the

me got off to a cracking start. What distinguishes Newcastle from most teams in the Premiership is that they invariably make the most of advantageous field positions; especially at Kingston Park, where they have not tasted defeat in the league for almost three years. Within two minutes Newcastle

out, Doddie Weir popped the half of the table. ball to Pete Walton, and Gary

Newcastle grab Sale bargain

Sale's response was immediate and telling. Peter Anglesea was allowed too much time on the ball, Richard Smith and Shane Howarth took it on, and Steve Haney completed the move for a superb try. While this was a sharp reminder of Sale's ability to score tries from all parts of the field, it was not until

a trademark try.

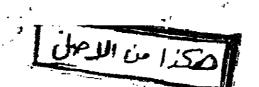
Shane Howarth scored a delightful individual try in the third quarter that Sale offered any real threat. If only they could add some substance to their style, and

find a way of winning more had established a foothold deep often away from Heywood

in Sale territory. From the line- Road, they would be in the top

However, if Jonny Wilkinson Armstrong burrowed over for and Rob Andrew had not missed four conversions, defeat would have been more emphatic and a try count of five to two tells its own story. Stuart Legg bagged two, and Martin Shaw another, before the break Thereafter, only Howarth and Archer took the eye, as Peter Anglesea, Kevin Ellis and Ross Nesdale were sent to the sin-bin.

Sale: J Mallinder (capt); M Moore, B-J er, C Yores, S Hanley, S Howarth, R Sn ER's, 67); P Winstanley, P Greening, I S Rawakui, D Baktwán, P Anglesea, P S Lon (A Sale)





# Punters feed grist to Mill

WHEN A horse is owned by the BY JOHN COBB company behind a tipping service it is a fair bet that subscribers to that line are going to be among its most enthusiastic supporters. Yesterday, just 24 hours after betting opened on Boxing Day's King George VI Chase, Teeton Mill, owned by the Winning Line tipping service, was the subject of a plunge for the big race.

Available at 9-2 before betting opened yesterday. Teeton Mill is now generally a 3-1 chance, although Stanley Racing still offer 7-2. There is a good chance that those odds will be taken and that Teeton Mill will usurp See More Business at the head of the market at some stage during a week in which there is little live racing to

keep punters amused. Caution though should be exercised. A similar gamble on when the important factor of the Teeton Mill took place before going can be included.

his emphatic success in last month's Hennessy Gold Cup, but he drifted out to 5-1 on the day as on-course bookmakers without ante-post liabilities were prepared to accept bets on him and the soft-ground per-

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Rainstorm (Lingfield 3.40) NB: Aolfe (Lingfield 2.40)

former Seven Towers came in for misplaced support.

In other words, do not rush down to your High Street shop this morning with your Christmas club money, but contemplate your selection over a turkey sandwich on Boxing Day

KEMPTON – BOXING DAY 2.20 PERTEMPS KING GEORGE VI CHASE (CLASS A) £100,000 added 3m Penalty Value £60,000

40°-40 CHALLENGER DU LUC (21) (D) (D A Johnson) M Pipe 8 ft 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ J Osborne (P-1P COOME HILL (28) (D) (Ms J Dennis) W Dennis 9 ft 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ J Osborne (P-2P-P CYBORGO (FR) (7) (CD) (County Stores Holdings) M Pipe 8 ft 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ P-2P-P CYBORGO (FR) (7) (CD) (County Stores Holdings) M Pipe 8 ft 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ R Johnson 10B-5P GO BALLISTIC (42) (D) (Ms B J Liedharti D Nicholson 6 ft 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ R Johnson 10B-5P GO BALLISTIC (42) (D) (Ms B J Liedharti D Nicholson 6 ft 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ R Johnson 10B-5P GO BALLISTIC (42) (D) (Ms B J Liedharti D Nicholson 6 ft 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ R Johnson 10B-5P GO BALLISTIC (42) (D) (Ms B J Liedharti D Nicholson 8 ft 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ A Maguire 10-2 SEE MORE BUSINESS (21) (CD) (F Barbert) R Nightey P Nichols 8 ft 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ L Wygler 21-55 SUPER TACTICS (25) (CD) (ft V Perry) R Alner 10 ft 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ A Thornton 12-17 TEETON MISL (28) (D) (The Winning Line) Miss V Williamson 13-53 The GREY MONK (14) (D) (A Duft) N Horrison 11 to \_\_\_\_\_\_ N Williamson 12 declared -

Corat: 9-4 See More Business, 3-1 Teston Mill (from 7-2), 4-1 Imperial Call, 9-2 Simply Destring, 9-1 Escartefigue, 14-1 Chellenger Du Luc, 16-1 Coome Hill, 20-1 Super Tactics, 33-1 Mulligan, 50-1 Ge Ballistic William Hilt: 9-4 Sée More Business, 3-1 Teeton Mill, 4-1 Imperiel Cell, 5-1 Simply Des 8-1 Escenteligue, 12-1 Challenger Du Luc, 16-1 Super Tectics, 20-1 The Grey Monk, 25-1 Co Hill, 40-1 Multigen, 66-1 Go Ballistic

Labrokes: 5-2 See More Business, 3-1 Teston MRI, 7-2 Imperial Cell, 5-1 Simply Dashi Escartafigus, 10-1 Challenger Du Luc, 18-1 Coome HIR, Super Tectics, 20-1 The Grey 33-1 Muligan, 50-1 Go Bellistic

Steriley: 9-4 See More Business, 7-2 Teston Mill. Imperial Call, 5-1 Stroply Deshing, 7-1 Escarta-igos, 14-1 Chailenger Du Luc. 18-1 Super Tactica, 20-1 Cooms Hill, 33-1 Mulligan, 65-1 Go

The grey's trainer, Venetia Williams, said yesterday: "Teeton Mill is fine and ready for Kempton and, within reason, won't mind what the ground is.

"He was impressive at Newbury, but I don't know if he's improving because he won on the bridle at Wincanton (on his previous outing] and was equally impressive that day."

Imperial Call has been given the go-ahead for the Kempton race in an attempt to end Ireland's long lean spell in the £100,000 prize. The last Irishtrained horse to lift the race was Captain Christy, the winner in 1974 and 1975.

Raymond Hurley, trainer of the 1996 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, said that the nine-yearold will fly over from Cork on Christmas Eve.

"The going at Kempton is soft, I understand," Hurley said. "And this suits us. I would only change my mind if, for some reason, the ground dried out but this is unlikely."

Not so unlikely, perhaps, as yesterday the official bulletin from Kempton was that the ground was good to soft, good in places. With some fierce winds blasting South East England, there is every chance that the track could dry out further, which would make Leopardstown's Ericsson Chase a week today an enticing alternative. Hurley still hopes to sign up either Richard Dunwoody or Tony McCoy for the ride.

Super Tactics, who has won five times at the course including a fine victory in last season's Racing Post Chase, is reported to be in fine form for the stiffest task of his career so far. Last year's winning jockey with See More Business, Andrew Thornton, takes the ride.



Real talent: Get Real clears the water jump at Ascot on Saturday on the way to success in the Frogmore Chase

# **Edmondson on** track with Express

RICHARD EDMONDSON, the racing correspondent of the Independent, strengthened his position at the top of the Racing Post naps table for newspaper tipsters when Torduff Express won Saturday's main event, the Betterware Chase, at odds of 9-2. Princeful, at 11-4, completed a 19.6-1 double for Edmondson in the day's other feature race at Ascot. Edmondson's Saturday followers were rewarded with the 33-1 success of Alzoomo the previous week and the victory of Torduff Express hoists the profit to a £1 level stake on all his naps this season to £36.38.

# **Injury misery for Murphy**

TIMMY MURPHY, who must Paul Nicholls's stable, said. suffer the frustration of his for- "There's nothing broken but I mer partner See More Busi- have hurt an old injury and Γm ness starting favourite for uncomfortable around my ribs Boxing Day's King George VI and shoulders. I'm looking for-Chase under a new jockey, Joe ward to coming back on Boxing Tizzard, is to take a week's rest from riding after suffering a fall at Lingfield on Friday.

Murphy and his mount, Eurobond, were out of contention in a novice hurdle when taking a crashing fall at the second-last flight. "I'm just feeling a bit sore," Murphy, who has lost his position as principal rider for

Day."

Kieren Fallon continued his good run in Hong Kong on Saturday by landing a double at Sha Tin on Sar Tourism and the well-named Grand Start. Britain's champion has now ridden five winners in the territory

aboard Always Cheerful in a 10furlong handicap. This took Hills on to the three-winner mark. ■ The all-weather card on Lingfield's Equitrack provides the only racing in Britain today as the meeting at Kelso has fallen victim to frost, "Unfortunately it's unraceable, particularly in the straight, and it's already starting to freeze," the clerk of the course, Johnnie Fenwicke-

Michael Hills, another jock-

ey on a three-month contract,

was also among the winners

#### LINGFIELD

2.40 Thats Life

3.40 Kimono

3.10 GINNER MORRIS (nap)

12.40 Night City 1.10 Priors Moor 1.40 Prince Consort 2.10 Ranaan (nb)

STALLS: 5f - outside; remainder - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best up to 7f. ■ Left-hand, sharp track, Equitack surface, ■ Course is SE of town on B2028, Lingfield station (served by-London, Victoria) adjoins course, ADMISSION: Cub C13, Family Enclosure £10, CAR PARIC: Cub £2; rest free. ■ LEADING TRAINERS: G L. Moore 63 who from 718 numers (314), M Johnston 54-308

(1/2%), H Hambon 52-411 (227%), Lord Hubbrington 024% (204%),
LEADING JOCKEYS: J Weaver 83 wins from 397 rides (209%), A Clark 79-668 (f1.8%),
L Dettorf 77-334 (23.1%), R Cochrane 69-400 (f7.3%)
FAVOURITES: 751 wirs from 2.255 races (success rate 33.5%),
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Kayo Gee (1.40), Coffage Blue (visored, 2.50),
LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLERS: Shontaine (1.10) & Lady Caroline (2.10) sent 270 miles.

12.40 CHRISTMAS APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,500 added 1m 5f Penaity Value £1,737

4 22306 NOJKARI (§) (Ms I. A Windsor) P Evens 5 8 6 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ C Cogien (§) 3 5 .05550 MERRY PRINCE (42) (SF) (J J Wheten) P Hedger 3 8 4 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ A Poll 2 .000 IRN ON THE PARK (180) (Cazanose Cear Hegyt Resing) S Dow 3 7 10 \_R Bristerd (\$) 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 declared \_\_\_\_\_ 6 declared \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum weight: 7st 10tb. True handicap weight: Int On The Park 7st 8tb. BETTING: 7-4 Wassed, 5-2 Night City, 7-2 Opera Buff, 7-1 Noutori, 10-1 Merry Prince, 20-1 Inn On The Park 7st 8tb.

1997: Night City 6 9 7 P Doe (3) 2-1 tav (K Burke) drawn (4) 8 ran

Night City: Front-runner, useful sort in claimers and recorded his 10th win of the year here (tim4f) this month. However, is 10b worse off with Opera Buff (3rd) for 6 lengths. Opera Buff: Usually held up and made late headway when 3rd to Night City hera last time. Has a 10b pull, though is not easy to win with nowadays and has gone 14 months without a success.

without a success Wasself: Progressive son, who defied a 9th hite in the weights when holding on by a rik here over this trip last time. Only 2b higher and could easily complete a hat-frick Noulcard: Lended his first success last month in an amateurs' handicap at Sourthwell (1m4f), though is on a 5b higher mark. Did not enjoy the best of runs last time, but hadden the author for the first time. Merry Prince: Maiden handicapper for Michael Jarvis and sold out of his yard for 17000gns in October. Unplaced over hundles at Warwick on Saturday and makes no appeal inn On The Paric Maiden who has not run on the Flat shoe May, but put up a tair ef-fort on his hundling debut when 4th at Fontwall in September. Has yet to show he stays

VERDICT: Night City won this last season and it is a measure of the improvement he has made that he is now 22th higher in the handleap. He may well confirm his superiority over Opera Buff despite being 10th worse off for six lengths, but will find it harder to give two stone to the latter's stablemate, WAASEF. He was always travelling well when successful over this trip here ten days ago and the handicapper may not have

1 10 EASAL HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,750 added

Į	Ļ	1.10	1m 2f Penalty Value £2,509
Ì	1	102343	MAZEED (8) (CD) (Mrs L.A Windson) P Evens 5 10 0
I	2	504222	ELHABUE (34) (BF) (P & A Swaffield) Mas G Kelleway 3 9 11
J	3	34225	BANK ON Hald (27) (BF) (Allen House Partnership) G L Moore 3 9 10
ŀ	4	006803	A Clark 7
ı	5	053605	SELLETTE (16) (Mrs. Judy Mihelop) D Haydo Jones 4 9 4
ı	6	150000	SHONTAINE (12) (C) (Paul Dean) M Johnston 5 9 3 R FitzPatrick (5) 11
i	7	000000	COUNSEL (63) (Max N F Thesiger) D Chapman S 8 Th
ı	8	4-0010	PRIORS MOOR (12) (Mrs L Alexander) R Armstrong 3 8 8
Į	9	650230	TARRADALE (2) (Ashley Carr Recing) C Booth 4 8 2F Norton 15
ľ	10	00/60	GOLDEN FAWN (J18) (Blackmore Sievens Pshp) M Haynes 5 6 1 June 8
ı	11		SAN GLAMORE MELODY (FR) (82) (948 Recing) R Ingrem 4 7 12
ı	12	0-0068	PIPPAS PRIDE (24) (Mrs A Victors) M Fetherston-Godley 3 7 10
l	13		WONDERBOY (12) (Come Racing Ltd) J R Poulton 4.7 toR Bristend (7) 4
ľ		-2000	ASSESSMENT AND A DESCRIPTION OF A DESCRI

FORM GUIDE Mazeed: Was having his first race eince August when 3rd at Wolverhampton lest time. Showed he acts on this eurlace when winning over C/D in January, but looks too high

Showed he acts on this surface when winning over C/D in January, but tooks too high in the handicap 
Ethabuts: Shill a mauden and finished 2nd for the 3rd time in 4 outlings since joining 
Gay Keteway. Hea a bright chance with Paul Fredericks claiming 7b 
Bank On Him: Fair handicapper, better on the surface than furl, but put up a below-par 
ethort here lest time when 5th to First Masser. Rune off seame mark and others preferred 
II Destino: Carne back to form when returning to his best distance when 3rd here 
over this trip last time. Hea been raised 1b and looks to have a stiffer task. 
Selflette: Inconsistent handicapper, makiden winner last season, but has been out of form. 
Hard to fancy on what she has shown in her last 3 outlings, including on this eurisce 
Shontialine: Has shown nothing in 4 outlings since returning from an 8-month lay-off. 
Finished behind 9 Destino (3rd) when 12th of 13 here last time 
Counsel: Meiden handicapper who is having in the ooks too competitive 
Priors Moor. Disappointing first effort on the AW here this month when 10th of 11 behind Riffi. However, he was having his first outing since September and has been dropped 
4b. Chance If he acts on this surface 
Tarradales: Macie a promising AW debut when 3rd here last month (now 1b higher) 
after showing signs of returning to form on turf. Good chance if he elects to make the 
running 
Cautes Emer: Hes not run on the Flat since May, 1997 and was always behind when

running Golden Fawn: Has not run on the Flat since May, 1997 and was always behind when the on his hurding debut this month. Seams hard to train and makes no appeal San Glamore Melocky. Maken handicapper, who has had plenty of chances, but showed some ability on the AW when 3rd at Wolverhampton in July, is 5to lower here, but seams

some ability on the AW when 3rd at voluntarian to the second his losing run to 21
Pippas Pride: Maxien handicapper who showed no aptitude for this surface when 6th on his AW debut here (tm) lest month and not certain to stay this trip 6th on his AW debut here (tm) lest month and on the AW. Connections seem unsure of his trip as he has run over 71 and 2m this season. Always behind on his first outing for his new yard here 12 days ago his first outing for his new yard here 12 days ago here are manife. Reappeared after 3-month break when unplaced over tim at Southwell terzonamic. Reappeared after 3-month break when unplaced over tim at Southwell the first over jumps.

She hat form over jumps.

VERDICT: A fairly wide-open event which provides a sound chance for locally-trained ELHABUB to land his first success. His stamins locked suspect earlier this season, but he has made the traine three times in four outlings since joining Gay Kelaway and ampaigned to start the train and contact the share second here last month. ared to stay this trip well enough when second here lest month.

BEST WISHES TO ALL RACEGOERS MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (F) £3,000 2YO 5f Pen Value £2,085

BARR BEACON (20) (Thorpe Venton) 7 Miles 9 0 Lotter 5

OCATCHTHEBATCH (20) (Over The Bridge Partnersho) E Winseler 8 D. S. Carson (7) 5

945022 PRINCE CONSORT (87) (BF) (J W Lovit) S C Williams 9 0 Dane O'Nelf 3 B
BNTO ORBIT (Cheveley Park Stud) W Hegges 6 9 W Ryan 7

0500 KAYO GEE (10) (Mrs E N Nelfs) A McNae 8 9 T Spraite 1 B
000 KENSTOWN GERL (82) (U M S ) R Ingram 6 9 C Cogen (7) 4 V

BETTING: 9-4 Prince Consort, 11-4 Into Orbit, 7-2 Berr Beacon, 5-1 Kayo Gee, 14-1 Riddle, 16-1 Catchthe Betch, 20-1 Kenstown Girl 1997: Tangerne Piyer 8 11 P Roberts (3) 7-2 (J Berry) drawn (6) 8 ran FORM GUIDE Barr Beacon: Returned from a near 6-month break when 6th on his AW debut at Wolver-hempton [5] last month with Capital back in 6th. Likely to improve with more experience

Catatritishistant: Missed the break when always behind on his AW debut at Wolver-hampton last month. Hard to fancy on that effort.

Prince Consort: Formerly trained by Lynda Ramsden, he makes his AW debut efter showing a little ability on turt. Dropped in class and birtisered for the first time when 2nd in a camer at Folkestone on his last outing in September linto Orbit: Urraced Satawan filly and a half-sister to useful spiriter Tippitt Boy Kaylo Gee: Drops back in trip after finishing unplaced over 81 and 71 hers. Birtikered first time. Showed amough on debut to suggest shals capable of witning a modest event Kenstowin Glid: Seems of little account and has beaten only 3 horses in 3 outings on turt. Drops back in trip after unning over 61 and 71 Riddle: Never reached the leaders when umplaced behind Seren Teg in a claimer [6] here on Sathritas, Some promise on turf debut, but has failed to progress.

VERDICT: Prince Commont is again equipped with the blinkers that brought about an improved performance at Folkestone in September. However, he has not run since then and a untested on this surface in public. KAYO GEE, blinkered for the first time here,

ı	2.10	7 HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE NURSERY HANDICA J (CLASS E) £3,750 added 2YO Sf Penalty Value £2,83
- 1		
		1 ASTRAKAN (66) (Mrs Henrietz Charlet) W Jarvis 97
- 2	2 42233	O PRINCE PROSPECT (68) (Maurice Parler) Mrs L Statos 9.4
1	46123	4 POLLY MILLS (3) (Mrs H Paul) P Evans 9 3
4		1 RANGAN (30) (Altred Al Shelar) M Chernon 8 2
4		5 COLLEGE BLUE (10) (M J Legge) T Mas 8 TI L Carter 5
6	20020	2 LADY CAROLINE (14) (Hentland Offset) M Johnston 8 1 J Fanning
1		RUST WIZ (10) (BF) (Peter M Crane) Lord Huntingdon 7 10
Ē	010500	DIAMOND GETZER (12) U.B.R. Lesure) R Harmon 7 to
-		COMPTON AKKA (63) (E Perser) G A Butler 7 10
- 3	1 466	J. (AMEP) (JN ARRA (193) (E. 1956) (J. A. DUNG / W

Minimum weight: 7st 108b. True handicap weight: Diamond Geezer 7st 98b, Compton Akka 7st 78b. BETTING: 5-2 Raream, 5-1 Polly Mills, Just Wiz, 11-2 Astrakam, 8-1 College Blue, Lady Caroline, 10-1 Prince Prospect, 12-1 others 1997: Blue Stadow 6 1 T Williams 7-1 (R Hannon) drawn (f) 10 ran

FORM GUIDE

Astrakam: Suited by soft ground on furf, he makes his AW debut. Won a Catherick malden over this trip in October and looks to have plenty to do in his first nursery. Princes Prospect: Placed 4 times from 6 outings on furf from Jaremy Nosedas yeard before being sold for 10,000 gris. Has prospects if he acts on this surface. Polly Mills: In fine form on the AW, though is on an 8th higher mark them when winning at Southwell (5f) lest month. Finished 2nd to Bartholomewhere over this trip last month and makets. Just Wiz (3rd) on 9th worse terms for a nk. Remean: Made an impressive AW debut when wrining with much more in hand than the official 2 length vertict would suggest at Wolverhempton (5f) last month. College Blust: Was having her first race since June when 5th to Xaynna here (8f) this month with Polly Mills in 2nd and Just Wizz 4th Looks held by the numer-up at the weights Lady Caroline: Weaterned 1f out when 10 length 2nd to Flying Officer here (8f) last time. A line through the winner suggests site has little chance against Ranaen Just Wizz Rathed after being outpected at hathwey to finish 4th to Xaynna over the trip here last time, but is only 1to better off for just over a length with numer-up Polly Mills Diamond Geozer: Did not appear to stay in when unplaced on his AW debut there last time. Won a 5f claimer at Sandown in September, so should be suited by trip Compton Aldiaz Oleappointing maider dropped into selling company when 2nd at Goodwood in August, Did not seem to act on the AW when last of 13 at Southwell in October VERDICE: It is hard to look beyond RAMAAN. Mick Channon's coit overzame a poor VERDICT: It is hard to look beyond RANAAN, Mick Channon's cott overcame a poor draw when a comfortable winner at Wolverhampton last month. Runner-up Flying Officer won here a fortnight ago and Ransan's furf form suggests has a cut above these rivals.

2 40 49'S HANDICAP (CLASS C) £10,000 added 6f

_	.70	Penalty Value £7,100	7
	200102	PRINCO LARIA (30) (D) (Respierdant Racing) P Harris 6 10 D	1
?	000500	BOLD SFFORT (30) (CD) (A J Richards) is Currengham-Brown 6.9.9. Dame O'Nell	4
3	305004	APOLLO (RED (2) (CD) (A Moore) G L Moore 9 8 6	İs
ı	000101	SPEEDY CLASSIC (27) (CD) (South Wates Showers) M Heaton-Ellis 9 9 B A Cla	4
5	060004	RUZEN (24) (D) (Five To Follow) B Palling 3 9 3	3)
•	021146	SOAKED (5) (CD) (D Chapman) D Chapman 5 9 1	1
•	100202	SRIAR (USA) (5) (CD) (J Gibertson) D Nicholis 5 8 13	η
}	21108	KRYSTAL MAX (19) (CD) (Caldiel: Nurseres) T D Barron 5 8 11 .Kimberley Hart (5)	) 1
•	202483	JUNYAN (5) (C) (D) (J M Bradley) J M Bradley 4 B 10	1
0	2241	AOSFE (27) (CD) (Kanz Bloodstock Investments) G Wragg 3 8 8 W Ryse	21
1	501003	THAT'S LIFE (24) (D) (7 MHs) T MHs 387	ä
2	630462	ZIGGY'S DANCER (LISA) (35) (C) (D) (J Connor) E Alston 7 8 6	m
3	3222	ELLWAY PRINCE (8) (CD) (BF) (\$ Roots) Mrs N Macauley 3 8 5	В
4	0000000	SCISSOR REDGE (S9) (CD) (D J Smith) J Bridger 8 8 3	ı
		- 14 declared -	

BETTING: 5-1 Siheft, 11-2 Thate Life, 5-1 Apite, 7-1 Eliway Prince, 8-1 Primo Lara, Souked, 9-1 Junyal, 11-1 Razzen, 12-1 Krystal Max, 14-1 Ziggy Dancer, 20-1 Apolio Red, 33-1 others

**FORM GUIDE** 

PORTAIN GOIDE

Prisso Larat: Encouraging return to all-wester when bin 1/4 length by Nomore Mr Niceguy at Whampton (7 hosp), but 4th higher now and yet to prove himself on this surface Sold Effort: Winner at Kempton (6) and Sendown (6) in the summer but out of sorts recently and well held by Prisso Lara on tatest Whampton (7) nunning Apollo Red: Goes well here but high in the weights these days and beaten 5 lengths when 4th of 8 to Nomore Mr Niceguy (1m) following 75-day lay-off Speedy Chassic: Course specialist. In fair form taxing but made hard work of beating Short Price 2 lengths in no retainer here latest and weighted up to hest. when 4th of 3 to Nomore are reuses of the combinate but made hard work of bealing Spendy Chasalic Course expedials. In fair form leasily but made hard work of bealing Sient Price 2 lengths in im claimer here lettest and weighted up to best. Ruseric Early-season Windows and Leicester 6f winner. Back to form when 11/4 length 4th of 15 to Soeked on Equatrack debut (6f) lest month. Should be in the hunt Soeked: Still in good form, but 5lb higher than when besting Blway Prince 1 length over C/D test month. Front-runner who will not be helped by widest draw Silhalt. Their C/D winner. Raised 5lb for latest Whampton win but only just caught by Pride Of Briston over 5t there basest and should be major player from low draw Knystall Marc. Sturfine course winner; latest from 2b lower over 5t in March. Returning to form when 2 lengths 3rd to Royal Cascade at Whampton(6f asmer) this month Juswit Winner from 7b lower over 5t here in April but starting slowly lately and too much to do when 1/2 length 3rd to Pride Of Bredon at Whampton (6f app http) list week Autilie: Moderate on turf, but well backed when making all to best Maas 6 lengths on to do when '\( \) length 3rd to Pride Of Broton at Whampton (if app hose) less week Audite: Moderate on turf, but well backed when making all to best Mass 6 lengths on Equitack debut (if maiden) less month. Open to improvement but plenty to do Thats Life: Impressive Equatack debut when staying-on 1'/-length 3rd to Soalad over C/D last month. 2b higher now but should go close, though trip possibly on sharp side again 2 leggy's Demour: Has won here, although best on burf Par 2'/- length 3rd to Quet Venture at Whampton (if hose) less month but difficult to win with these day's Ellway Prince in form of his bis end with good C/D 2nd to Soalad and 1'/- langth 2nd to Pride Of Briston at Whampton (if hose). Every chance despite 2th rise Solason Riddge: Setter on this surface than burf but on a hefty loang run and likely to need the outing after hear 9-week absence

VERDICT: An extremely tough contest with the old hands Soeked, SIHAFI, Ruzen and Krystal Max up against the up-and-coming Acife, Thats Life and Ellway Prince. After his good effort on the Ribresand at Wolverhampton, it may be worth giving a another chance to the record-seeking Straff, who is clearly back to his best and probably even better on this surface. The inside stall should help his young rider keep him covered up for a late in a

3.10 EASAL HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,750 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £2,495

_	IIII ZI F GIIEILY FUIUC ZZITOO
644	ASTON VILLA (GER) (J25) (J Duffy) D Esworth 4.9 12 P Goode (7) 1
	DICK TURPIN (USA) (J303) (CD) (Dybal Partnership) B Smart 4 9 ft
000540	RAINSOW RAIN (USA) (12) (C) (F McCertry) S Dow 4 9 8
220541	BROWNING (133) (S.J. Sheep) Lord Huntingdon 3.9.5
	DOUBLE FLIGHT (M8) (Miccleweek Leon Pshp) Mas B Senders 4 9 4
	TRIBAL PEACE (98) (CO) (Bran Guibby Ltd) B Guibby 6 9 1
000000	SILVER GROOM (JES) (D) (Sher Daring Partners) M Crannon 8.8 to Candy Monts 13
0458-0	HOBLE HERO (343) (D & M Casad Hole) K Morgan 4 8 4
000030	BARRIER RIDGE (12) (BF) (Miss C A Hockridge) G L Moore 4 8 1
042442	GHENER MORRES (2) (Mrs M Rogers) C Booth 37 t3 J Quinn 11
-31420	MEMORY'S MUSIC (24) (C) (Mrs. J Philips-Hil) M Madgardt 6 7 12
	WILD NETTLE (14) (Mrs J A Cleary) J Fox 4 7 10 Decian O'Shea 6
	SAMMY'S SHUFFLE (52) (D) (Mrs G M Terrimerman) R M Flower 3 7 10. N Cartiste 4 B
300005	FALKENBERG (FR) (24) (J Saiter) B Pearce 3 7 t0F Norton 14

— 14 declared —

Minimum: 7st 10th. True h'cap weights: Wild Nettle 7st 8th, Sammy's Studie 7st 6th, Faithenberg 7st 3th.

BETTING: 11-4 Glenner Morris, 9-2 Browning, 7-1 Wild Nettle, 8-1 Dick Turpin, 10-1 Aston Villa,
Rainthow Rain, Silver Groom, 12-1 Memory's Music, Sansmy's Studie, 14-1 others

1997: see Division I

Aston Villa: Unplaced over hundles since 6 langths 4th to Key Academy in poor 1m3f Bath maiden in September. Yet to race on all-weether and difficult to assess Dick Turphin: Easy winner of maiden over C/D in February. Sidelined since below-form 6th of 8 to Brilliant Red over C/D a fortnight later. Probably best watched Rainbow Rains Front number who tanded a gamble over 71 here in August. Reared at stalls when 8th of 13 to Byzantum over C/D last time. Yet to prove he gets beyond fin and horize a control to the side of the side o

states when told to any organization of the state of the state of provering goal payons and looks a doubtful stayer. Browning: Rumer-up in poor meiden over C/D in April. Sidelined since neck with over Flying Bold at Windsor (m3i hcap, firm) in August. Merket move would be significant, but probably best watched. Double Flight: Formerly fair 12th handicapper for Mark Johnston but unraced on Flet for 15 months. Pulled up recent starts over hundles and hard to tency on AW debut. Tribel Peacet: C/D winner 23 months ago and at Goodwood in 1997 but on a long losing run and showing little sign of revival. Silver Groom: One-time useful Im2i handicapper. Without Flat win for 2 years, but fair 2nd at Salsbury in August and placed over hundles since. Lack of AW experience is a concern and others preferred. Noble Herce: Moderate middle-distance maidlen for John Sheehan last year. First outing since 43 lengths of 8 to Dalwhinnie at Southwell (Im4i mdn) in February Barrier Riddge: Useful 81 performer for Henry Cocil in 1997. Best form since when 2 lengths of to Speedy Classic in fun celimer here last month. Plenty to do Gitmer Morrie: Improving maiden who has taken well to all-weather. Made most from

Ginner Morrie: Improving meiden who has taken well to all-weather. Made most from halfway to close home when 2 langthe 2nd to Castle Burning over C/D on Septraley. Every chance in a stightly wealer race

halfway to close home when 2 lengths 2nd to Castle Burning over C/D on Saturday. Every chance in a sightly wealor race Memory's Music: Possibility on easy 1m4! seller win here in January from 6to lower and recent improved Brighton furl effort. Should leave latest course running behind Wild Nattile: Improving and will appreciate extra 2! effort in after 1'/s length 3rd of 12 to Respberry Sauce in this files hose here, but no easy task from 4th higher Sammy's Shuffle: Peasonably weighted on improved Brighton 1m2! handicap win in September but yet to show he is same force on all-weather and absent 8 weeks Palkenberg: Has not shown much since leaving Mark Johnston in spring and needs to improve on latest 12 lengths 5th of 14 to Sand Cay in seler over C/D.

VERDICT: Little recent form to go on, and the improved effort of GININER MOR-RIS over course and distance on Saturday makes him an automatic choice. He has taken to the sand file duck to water and gets the vote over Memory's Music, who has proved himself on Equitrack and would be well in if he could transfer recent turf

3.40 SEASONS GREETINGS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D)

Į	<u> </u>	£4,000 added 7t Penaity Value £2,788
1	000	PUEGIAN (JES) (D Knght) M Madgwick 3 9 0 T Sprake
ŝ	204006	IMPERATOR (12) (George Smith Ltd) G L Moore 3 9 0
3	8 65	MANYKAB (24) Liuius Verne Partnership) Mass G Kelleway 3 9 0 S Whitworth
4		PRESCRICAL (FR) (27) (D G Churston) S Dow 3 9 (
	6052	RAINSTORM (24) (Mrs Shelley Dwyer) C Dwyer 3 9 0
ŧ	456000	SABRE BUTT (117) (Mark Tompkins Else) M Tompkins 3 9 0
i		SANTONE (12) (Stonethorn Stud Farms) A Harmon 390
Ė		SOCIAL ROUND (FR) (27) (W Powell) T Powell 3 9 0T G Micharghlin
ġ	466000	TULSA (90) (Brien Gubby Ltd) 8 Gubby 4 9 0
1		KBMONO (67) (Mrs J M Ryen) J Nosecta 3 6 9
		LA PETITE FLAMECHE (20) (M T Bevan) R O'Sulvan 3 8 9
		MARIANA (14) (C Holoroft) T Clement 389 A Poli (5) 1
		QUEBYS HAT (157) (BF) (K J Wals) J Bridger 389
		SILENT PRIDE (14) (A Moore) G L Moore 3 8 9
•		- 14 declared -
ě	ETTING 😅	Kirnono, 11-4 Rainsterre, 6-1 La Petito Flameche, 7-1 Social Round, 10-1 Senton
Ξ		transport 11-4 (artifaction a . m.) cannot be proper to proper 16-1 for-some

SBent Pride, 12-1 Mawkab, Primordial, 14-1 others 1997. Witchinder 5 9 0 S Whiteorth 3-1 (Mrs L Stubbs) drawn (4) 15 ran FORM GUIDE

plant: Showed little for Roger Charlton and no evident improvement when 10 is 11 to Thelonius at Warwick (fin min, good) for new yard. AfW debut erator: Moderate form in handlespe and madens for Lady Herries. No signature of AfW in the Affect of 12 to Meadow Leader in 71 seller here on Affect.

Imperator: Moderate form in handcaps and madens for Lady Herries. No sign of improvement when 8 lengths 6th of 12 to Meadow Leader in 77 selier here on AW debut Mewkab: Lightly raced, but plently to find on 17 lengths 5th of 8 to Tumbleweed Hero in 1m maiden here last month.

Primordial: Respectable 10 lengths 5th of 9 to Aorle in 6 maden here last month on first outing for a year but still has plently to prove
Rainstorm: Br-John Goeden, Improved form for new yard when, with winner 2f out, but 3 lengths by Tumbleweed Hero in 1m maiden here last month. Go close Sabre Butt: Only plating class on turf. Al-weather debut and first outing since 21 lengths 10th of 5 to Charles Bride at Carles (7, good to soft) in August. Little appeal Sanitoner. Some ability in Warwick im maiden in May but 40 lengths last of 13 to Byzantum in 1m21 heep on at-weather debut following lay-off. Hard to fancy Social Round: Ex-Ed Dunlop, Gradually finding its feet and ran on well from slow start when 7 lengths 3rd of 9 to Aofie over 6f here last time. Open to improvement trails early promise and beaten 21 lengths in Brighton 1m2/ seller on

when 7 lengths 3rd of 9 to Acite over 6f here last time. Open to improvement Tulses: Failed to fulfil early promise and beaten 21 lengths in Brighton 1m2f seller on statest start. Difficult to famoy on all-weather debut. Klimono: Quiety backed and early speed when 9 lengths 7th of 10 to Catch The Dragon at Gowran Park (7f mch, good to soft) in October on only start for Jim Bolger in Ireland. From yard with excellent strike-rates and interesting candidate on AfW debut La Patthe Flameche: Placed over 6f on turl here in July. Promising A/W debut when staying on 5 lengths 6th of 13 to Thesite Magic of Southwell (6f heap, fibresand) and could be in the hunt if she adapts to this faster surface.

Martants: Nerrowly beaten by Mons in Newcastle 1m claiming handicap in October but has yet to show anything comparable on the all-weather Queen's hatch Useful 3rd to Francise Fair in Folkestone 7f heap for Ben Hambury in July but ran bedly on all-weather debut same month and has since changed hands.

but ran badly on all-weather debut same month and has since changed har Silent Pride: Looks only plating-class on recent 4%-length 5th of 12 to Respise in ith littles' handicap here and has plenty to find VERDICT: The form pick in a week race is Rainstorm, who could prove a good buy for Chris Dwyer on the strength of his running here last month. He should go close, but preference is for the recent Jeremy Nosede acquisition KIMONO, who showed ability on her hish debut. Nosedes record is persuasive and she will cartainly be no stranger to the sand. Poeltive market signals should be worth following.

since his three-month stint began at the start of December. **Record** is

threatened

SOAKED AND Sihafi again attempt to become record-breakers when lining up against 12 opponents at Lingfield today. Last Wednesday at Wolverhampton, Sihafi failed in his athandicap success of the year by only a short-head to Pride Of Brixton, with Soaked in sixth. With nine handicap wins each to their credit in 1998, they share the 20th-Century record with Chaplins Club, Glencroft, Vindaloo and Star Rage.

# FIRST SHOW

Lingfield 2.40 41 41 51 92 51 92 61 61 51 TI-2 Thats Like 7-1 11-2 11-2 6-1 6-1 Elimay Prince 8-1 7-1 7-1 8-1 7-1 Soziced 5-2 10-1 6-1\_3-1 9-1

### SATURDAY'S RESULTS

ASCOT A S C U I
Gong: Good to Soft (Hurdes Soft)
12.35: 1. KURAKKA (R Durwoody) 7-2; 2.
Strong Paladin 16-1; 3. Billingegate 3-1
jt Sav 7 ran. 3-1 jt fav Country Beau
(unseasted rider), 13, 2%, L/ Grifford, Findon). Tote: £3.70; £2.20, £5.80, DF.£18.00
CSF: £3783, NR: No Retreat. 1.10: 1. GET REAL (M A Rizgerald) 2-1 fav. 2. Celibate 9-2; 3. Squire Silk 9-4. 5 ran. 11, 5. (N Henderson, Lambourn). Tote: £2.70; £1.50, £2.10. DF: £5.10. CSF: £9.82. 1.40: 1. HIDEBOUND (M A Fitzgerald) 100-30: 2. Renzo 5-1; 3. Salamen 9-4 fav. 7 ran. 17. 1%. (N Henderson, Lambourn).

21/5: 1. PRINCEFUL (R Durwoody) 11-4 fav; 2. Deano's Beeno 7-2; 3. Ocean Hawk 9-1. 11 ran. /b. 30. (Mrs. J Priman. Upper Lamboum) Tota: (S30): \$160, \$180, \$210. DF-25.50. CSF: \$1083. Tiriccia: \$220. MR. Sans Marko, Schadel Them. ES320. NR: Saver Wedge, Splendid Thyne. 2.50: 1. TORDUFF EXPRESS (N Williamson) 9-2; 2. Callisoe Bay 15-1; 3. King Lucifer 13-2. 7 ran. 11-8 fav Tamerindo (pulled up). 18, 4. (P. Nichols. Shapton Malet). Tota: Es30; £220. £730. DF:£6480. CSF: £5550.

Placepot: 937900, Quadrot: 95180.

LINGFIELD Gong: Standard 11.50: 1. CASTLES BURNING (G Fautorer) 4-1 fax; 2. Ginner Morris 9-1; 3. Confronter 9-2 14 ran. 2. V. (C Cyzer). Tote: 05:70; E180, E280, E200, DF: 265:10. CSF: CSGD: Titoger: PSA:4. 1.220: 1. SERIEN TEG (G Faulkner) 8-11 fav; 2. Cantgetyourbreath 5-1; 3. Magique Bolle 8-1 12 ran. ¼, ¼ (B Paling) Tote: £170; £10, £140, £180, DF: £300, CSF: £388. ETU, ETAU, STAU, DF: ESOU USF: \$3.50.
12.50: 1. DALINTED (Dene ONeil) 9-4; 2.
Simply Megical 14-1; 3. On Ee Be 7-1 6
ran. 10-11 lav Flying Officer (4th). Sh-hd,
4 (G L Moore), Totas: E2.70; E2.0, E270. DF.
E14.70. CSF: £2250. After a stewards'
equiry, the first and second places were
reversed.

Jackpot: 02.694.00

1.20: 1. NOMORE MR NICEGUY (T Spraise) 3-1; 2. Italian Symphomy 15-2; 3. Danzino 3-1; 8 ran. 7-4 tav Unreal City. 5. sh-hd. (E Aiston). Totac £3.80; £3.60; £1.50. Noble Hero. 2.55: 1. BOLD ORIENTAL (A Clerk) 20-1: 2. Incepta 18-1: 3. Beguille 7-4 fev. 12 ran. 1/s., hd. (J Hills), Tote: C1480: 22.90, C710, C150. DF: £103.90 CSF: £304.05 Tincast:

276748.
2.25: 1. SMART KID (W Ryan) 3-1 fev; 2.
Rolsin Splandour 11-2: 3. Castle Anhly
Jack 20-1. 12 ran. 21/s, hd. (Mas. G Keleway). Tota: 6240; 6250, 6250. DF; 61040.
CSF: 61856. Tricast: 627457. ot: 26080. Quadpot: £23.10. Place 5: £8410. Place 5: £47.77.

Goorg: Soft 12.30: 1. JUNGLI (J A McCarthy) 8-13 fav, 2. Afon Alwen 4-1; 3. Capacil 25-1 9 ran, Dist, dist, (P Webber, Burbury) Tote: £150; £10, £10, £250, DF:£310, CSF: £272.

Junyai 12-1 13-1 9-1 13-1 13-1 Ziggy's Dancer 91 10-1 14-1 9-1 9-1

Primo Lara 31 10-1 6-1 6-1 6-1 Knystel Max 14-1 14-1 12-1 14-1 12-1 Speedy Classic 14-1 14-1 14-1 14-1 14-1 Applic Red 25-1\_20-1\_25-1\_25-1\_ <u>Bold Effort 33-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 </u> Scissor Flatge 33-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 Eachway, a quarter the ocids, places 1, 2, 3 C Coral, H Wm HB, L, Ladbrokes, S Stanley, T Total

1.00: 1. OPTIMISTIC CHRIS (7 Eey) 7-1: 2. The Robe 8-1; 3. Helenes Hill 5-2 fav. 16 ran. Sh-hd. 3. (A Streeter, Unoveten Tote: £800; £2-20, £2-60, £1-40 OF: £20.50 CSF: £60.97. CSF: 56097.

1.35: 1. NATIVE BUCK (R Wekley; 7-1; 2. Pennyahel 10-1; 3. Bowles Patrol 6-1 15 ran. 9-4 ftv Norlandic (5th), 1 1½. (M Willonson, Banbury); Tote: £8.60, £2.00. £2.50. £2.50. DF: £30.00. CSF: £55.88. Treast £41791. NR: Aren't We Lucky.

2.10: 1. NIPPER REED (A Thornton) 9-1, 2. Hoh Express 7-2; 3. Distant Echo 3-1 6 ran. 9-4 fav Sursum Corda (5th), 3, 18, (R Simoson, Forhall). Tote: £6.00; £2.20. (R Simpson, Forhil) Tote; 2600; 2210, 2220 DF; 215.80, CSF; 235.45, \$2.20. DF: \$1580. CSF: \$35.45.
2.40: 1. ZAGGY LANE (S Burrough) 5-1 fav.
2. Hawalian Youth 12-1; 3. Trouvallie 18-1
13 ran. 5, 31/a. (P Roctiond, Martock), Tota:
\$850; \$2.90, \$4m, \$1.50 DF: \$63.00 CSF:
\$345. Tricasa: \$810.04
3.10: 1. FORTYTWO DEE fW Marston) 14-1;
2. The Bargeman 13-2; 3. Tellaportity 25-1 10
ran, 9-4 fav Rich Tyccon (48th), 3: 4: // A Carroll Worcester) Tota: \$2.30: \$180, \$190, \$130, \$120, \$120, \$150, \$130, \$150, \$130, \$150, \$130, \$150, \$130, \$150, \$130, \$150, \$130, \$150, \$130, \$150, \$130, \$150, \$130, \$150, \$130, \$150, \$130, \$150, \$130, \$150, \$130, \$100, \$150, \$130, \$10 3.40: 1. PEALINGS (J. Tizzard) 20-1, 2. Polar Prospect 7-2; 3. Herleggin Chorus 7-1, 7 ran. 9-4 fev Taufan Boy (5th) 11/-, 11/-, (G. Hubbard, Woodbridge). Tote: CS580; 6480, 6230. DF: CHB0. CSF: C7559.

Going: Good to Soft 12.20: 1, ANDY'S LAD (Mr. J P McNamara 11-2: 2. Thymphy 50-1, 3. Builder Boy 25-1; 4. Stormhill Stag 3-1 tav 17 ran. 5. 4 (F Mu-phy) Tota: 5590; 5240, 5220, 5220, 5120, DF \$5230. CSF; 523403 Tricser (559690. \$12.50. CSF: £23403 Tricast: £55650 12.56: 1, KNIGHT'S CREST (J Cultoty) 12.56: 1, KNIGHT'S CREST (J Cultoty) 14: 2. Millerstord 11-4: 3. New Leaf 5-2 lav. 8 ran. 16, 16. (R Dician). Tole: £360; £110. £140. £140. DF: £4.70. CSF: £392 1.25: 1. WINDROSS (R Johnson) 2-1 tav. 2. Wicked Imp 16-1; 3. Indian Tracker 5-1 20 ran. 4. 8. (D Nicholson). Tote: £340; £150. £390. £390. DF: £4740. CSF: £3143 NR: Forest MEI.

Placepot: £944.30. Quadpot: £211.80. Place 6: £673.73. Place 5: £563.99

2.00: 1. BEHRAJAN (J Culloty) 20-1; 2. Miss Fara 3-1; 3. Croker 11-4 fav 19 ran. 14, 4 (H Dely). Tote: £20.30: £27.0; £3.0; £40 DF: £9180 CSF £7190 NR. Desert Song, Natales Pet. 2.30: 1. PEACE LORD (J Cullory) 3-1; 2. Gratiomi 11-8 tor; 3. Royal Mountbrowne 5-1.5 ran, 6, 22 [Mrs D Haine; 1 fote: £490; £170, £120 DF, £550, CSF; £6.41 \$170. \$120. DF. \$550. GSF £641.
3.00: 1. NESSUN DORO (Chris Webb) 3-1 fav, 2. Tonka 5-1; 3. Dragon King 4-1, 7 ran. 1%, 10. [S Melor), Tota: £230; £180, £280. DF. £350. GSF: £14.32.
3.30: 1. KRLBRIDE LAD (R. Johnson) 5-2 fav; 2. Knock Leader 6-1; 3. Melstock Meggle 7-1, 12 ran. 6. %, (D. Nicholson) Tota: £370; £190, £210, £280. DF: £1050. GSF: £1670. Tocast: £5687.
Placemost: £32.40. Greathers: £369.

¥THE INDEPENDENT **RACING SERVICES** 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS KELSO 971 LINGHELD 972

Placepot: £32.40. Quadpot: £9.80. Place 6: £721 Place 5: £410.

ALL COURSES RESULTS <u>0891</u> 261 970 Colls cost 50p per minute, TLS, Ltd, Scratter St ECDA 4

# Ball displays strength of 'dying breed'

"SEX & CHOCOLATE for a quid!" came the exhortation outside St Andrew's, It turned out to be a fanzine sales pitch rather than a saucy solicitation. but if the ensuing struggle did little for the erogenous zones or sweet teeth, it certainly warmed 22,000 hearts.

There are few occasions when the rival supporters, players and managers share a glow of satisfaction after a goalless draw, yet this was one. Sunderland maintained both their substantial lead in the First Di- lantly for the more highly vision and Britain's only unbeaten away record, while the shepherd it to safety. way Birmingham tested their mettle confirmed them as play-

off candidates at the very least. 11 corners to three, all but one of the better scoring opportunities belonged to Sunderland. The fluctuating nature of the contest was embodied by Gary pro, one of a dying breed". Rowett. the right-back Birmingham bought from Derby in August, who went from the the space of three minutes in the closing stages.

Touted by his manager, Trevor Francis, as worthy of Glenn Hoddle's consideration in a position where England have relatively limited options, Rowett found himself in the heart of Sunderland's six-yard area with the ball at his feet. Swinging first with his left and then with his right, he failed to connect with either.

Instead, he toppled over on to his backside as if struck by a sniper. Francis generously suggested the ball might have stuck in the mud. Rowett, refreshingly willing to laugh at himself as he watched his aberration replayed on television, called it "just one of those

By PHIL SHAW Birmingham City

Sunderland

came almost immediately. A superb pass by one of Sunderland's substitutes. Gavin McCann, enabled Daniele Dichio to flick the ball past the goalkeeper, Kevin Poole. As it rolled towards the net, Rowett materialised, a trifle nonchastrung Birmingham fans, to

The game's most influential performer went about his work in less dramatic fashion. Kevin If the home side had more of Ball, Sunderland's captain and the match territorially, forcing midfield anchor, won more tackles in an afternoon than many players make in a season, prompting his coach, Adrian Heath, to hail him as "a true

Ball might not have challenged for the ball with quite the same aggression had the refridiculous to the sublime in eree, Mark Halsey, not neglected to caution him for an early foul on Dele Adebola. That said, Mr Haisey seldom missed any indiscretion but waited for a judicious moment to have a discreet word with the culprit. His approach allowed the match to build up a head of steam; only the excellence of the defences stopped it from reaching the boil.

Sunderland would have to suffer the kind of collapse in which England's cricketers specialise to miss out on a Premiership return for the second season running. Up front, the free-scoring Kevin Phillips is close to fitness after a threemonth absence. At the back, bolstered by Niall Quinn's height at set-pieces, they have also kept six successive clean

League games, Peter Reid's assertion that his team were 'hard to beat" was a statement of what Basil Fawlty called "the bleedin' obvious". The Sunderland manager admitted Rowett's blunder was "a bit of luck" but he argued that it was well earned. "Trevor's got

a good side here," he said.

"It's a hard place to get a

After just four defeats in 60

Francis, who played alongside Reid for England and made him one of his first recruits as a manager with Queen's Park Rangers, was "not too unhappy" with one point. "Sunderland are the outstanding team in the division and will win the championship convincingly. But I don't think we could have been any more

However, when the mutual respect abated he may have reflected on Birmingham's failure to get behind the visitors' fullbacks; and on the patchy showing by his muscular forwards. Adebola and Paul Furlong, who punched their weight only spas-

Birmingham are a far more sophisticated side than the one bequeathed by Barry Fry. Churlish as it may sound so soon after their second sevengoal away win this year, at Oxford a week earlier, the key to whether they can end their 13year exile from the top section could lie in Francis' capacity to coax greater menace from his

Birmingham City (4-4-2): Poole; Rowett, Ablett, Johnson, Marsh (Was-sall, 86): McCarthy, O'Connor, Robinson, sall, 86): McCartny, O Connot, roburson, Ndkour, Furlong, Adebola, Substitutes not used: Forster, Hughes. Sunderland (4-4-2): Sorensen; Makin, Mekille, Butter, Socit: Rae (Williams, 72), Ball, Clark, Gray (McCann, 72): Bridges, Quinn (Dichio, 79) Referee: M Hakey (Welwan Garden Clty).

Referee: M Halsey (Welwyn Garden City). Bookings: Sunderland: Rae. Butler.



David Platt, in his new role as Sampdoria team supervisor, looks on intently as his charges earn a late draw with Milan yesterday

# Platt plays a watching game

AFTER ALL the controversy surrounding his appointment David Platt was probably glad to be able to watch a football match vesterday.

The former England international, who was asked to take on the challenge of resurrecting the fortunes of Sampdoria last week, looked on from the stands at a rain-lashed Stadio Luigi Ferraris as the club he used to play for held Milan to a

Sampdoria have been unable to call Platt their coach as he does not hold an Italian coaching certificate, so he has the title of team supervisor and his assistant, Giorgio Veneri, is officially the team's coach. This

ROUND-UP

BY RUPERT METCALF

subterfuge was not enough to satisfy the Italian Football Federation, hence Platt's banishment from the bench yesterday. Platt, who will have been im-

pressed by his team's fighting spirit, was in radio contact with Veneri. "We had prepared this match so well that there was little to say about it," the 59vear-old veteran coach said. "I only spoke to him [Platt] twice."

For much of the first half, Milan threatened to run riot, but the German striker Oliver Bierhoff's failure to convert a itors only had a Leonardo goal to show for their domination. Francesco Palmieri levelled

the scores early in the second half before Bierhoff finally found the target with a powerful long-range header from Bruno N'Gotty's cross in the 72nd minute. The Argentinian playmaker, Ariel Ortega, secured a vital point for Sampdoria with a curling free-kick in his first match back since suspension following a drunken driving incident in Genoa.

The Japanese midfielder, Hidetoshi Nakata, kept his nerve to convert a penalty five minutes into stoppage time as Perugia held the Serie A lead-

ers, Fiorentina, to a 2-2 draw. Milan Rapajic put the home team ahead after just 20 seconds, but Anselmo Robbiati's 10th minute free-kick and Gabriel Batistuta's 14th goal in 14 matches put the leaders 2-1

Nakata's spot-kick, following a handball by Guillermo Amor, was his seventh goal in his first season in Serie A. It allowed Parma to cut Fiorentina's lead to three points with a thrilling 5-3 victory at Empoli. In France, Bordeaux ended

up going into injury time.

the year with a 6-0 thrashing of Metz on Saturday but Marseilles stayed top, three points clear of Bordeaux, with a 2-0 debefore the winter break, retained their lead thanks to two goals from Robert Pires either side of half-time, while Lilian Laslandes scored a hat-trick for Bordeaux.

Paris St-Germain, who have failed to score in their last five matches, lost 2-0 at Lorient, for whom Patrice Loko scored twice against his former club. Monaco, who lost 1-0 at home to Lyons, are expected to sack their coach, Jean Tigana, during the winter break.

In Bangkok, Iran beat Kuwait 2-0 to win the Asian Games football final. Peter Withe's Thailand side lost 3-0 to China in the third-place play-off.

# Walsall worthy of the big occasion

ONE OF the persistent complaints against new grounds. particularly those belonging to clubs that do not regularly draw big crowds, is that they have no soul or atmosphere.

The Bescot Stadium, Walsall's functional home for eight years, looks as much like a B&Q extension as any, but, as unprecedented numbers rallied there to watch the Saddlers in this Second Division promotion game, one thing it did not lack crowd." was a sense of occasion.

Walsall and their neighbours from up the M6 approach a match like this from opposite directions. Like their manager, Brian Little, Stoke have seen bigger days and grander stages. For Walsall, a few Cup adventures aside, this is as good as it gets.

Stoke remain a big club in hibernation; Walsall were excited and delighted by a crowd of have salvaged a First Division 9,056 - a record for the club at

The hope expressed by their

ALLIED DUNBAR

PREMIERSHIP ONE

PREMIERSHIP TWO

Match 6 (Jackpot)

Match 5 plus bonus ball

Match 4

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Stoke City

club's modest average. "The fans would go away and say that was good entertainment," he said. "In fact, if any of them aren't satisfied, I'll give them some money out of my own pocket. The players responded to what they got from the

look of a side that gives value for money, working tirelessly

Walsall certainly had the

Graydon's own investments have proved sound, particularly the enlistment of the strikers. Walter Otta and Andy Rammell. The flair of the Argentinian has been a revelation in the Second Division, although Saturday was a day more for the direct approach of the former Barnsley man, who dived to head the winner and proved a handful throughout.

and with no little skill to de- the side, with Neil Pointon and servedly edge out opposition Paul Simpson a pair of sprightwho have far greater resources ly veterans down the left flank.

> that we don't get carried away," said Graydon, who played in the Aston Villa forward line alongside Little. "Stoke put us under terrific pressure, played some good football and, if I were Brian, I'd be disappointed not to come away from the match with something."

Stoke did indeed look a smooth and classy outfit, with no end of midfield craft at their dis-There is quality elsewhere in posal. But their striking options

were limited once the former Walsall man, Kyle Lightbourne, succumbed to the flu he had 'We've got to make sure thought he could overcome.

> of playing, but there was little in this defeat to suggest that Stoke will not be there or thereabouts at the end of the season As he said, the fact that their next match is against another

promotion candidate - Preston gives them the chance to get back on course without delay. Bescot has some way to go before it becomes a Theatre of Dreams, but the evidence is

that its team is on the up. Graydon may have built and run it on the cheap, but the side might have enough to embarrass a Stoke, or even a Fulham, at the end of the campaign.

Goal: Rammell (41).

Maisall: (4-4-2): Walker; Marsh, Green, Roper Pointon; Wrack, Larueson, Keates, Simpson: Rammell, Otta (Brissett, 86).
Substitutes not used: Gadsty, Porter.
State QBy (5-3-2): Muggleton; Keen, Sigurdson, Robinson, Woods (Petty, 61), Small: Odifield (Walkace, 81), Rawanagh, Forsyth: Lightbourne (Crowe, 20), Thome. Perce: E Wolstenholme (Blackburn). okings: Walsall: Wrack. Keates, Stoke: ods. Robinson, Oldfield Man of the match: Pointon. Attendance: 9,056

# Jefferies ponders affairs of the Hearts

Little blamed himself for A HEART of Midlothian board giving Lightbourne the option meeting tonight will help to determine the future of Jim Jefferies as the Edinburgh club's manager.

Jefferies is the main target for Aberdeen as they look to replace Alex Miller as manager, a position the Hearts man might well be interested in if he does not hear good news from his board.

Jefferies has had a bad week. The sale of the talented winger, Neil McCann, to Rangers was followed by a 3-2 home reverse at the hands of the Ibrox club on Saturday, with McCann playing for the final 10 minutes for his new employers.

With his star player gone and his side 14 points behind Rangers, the leaders, Jefferies will look for assurances on the signing of new players to strengthen his squad, but with Hearts in the red to the tune of £2m such assurances might not be forthcoming.

#### SCOTTISH ROUND-UP

Rangers' victory was

BY DAVID MCKINNEY

achieved with the help of two goals from Stephane Guivarc'h, their French striker, while Henrik Larsson again displayed his sublime talents in scoring twice as Celtic beat Dunfermline 5-0. The Swede also supplied the other three goals. which came from a Lubomir Moravcik double and another from Johan Mjaliby. Larsson has already been a signing tarwho might once again turn their attention towards him if they sell Paolo Di Canio.

Aberdeen recorded a second successive victory with a 2-1 win strengthens the hand of Paul Hegarty, their caretaker man-

SNOW REPORTS in association with WorldCover Direct

a permanent basis, while Mark Hateley, the former Rangers striker who recently finished a spell as manager of Hull Cit is thought to be one of the favourites for the vacancy at St

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MATION

The First Division side sacked their manager, Tony Fitzpatrick, last week and, along with Hateley, Sergei Baltacha, the former Inverness Caledonian manager is thought. to be in the running, with the club expected to make an announcement later this week

Hibernian continue to lead the First Division courtesy of a get for Sheffield Wednesday, 3-0 victory over Clydebank and again the most pleasing aspect of Saturday's game will be an attendance close to 10,000, giving an indication of the drawing power of the Edinburgh over Dundee, a result which club. Alex McLeish's side are now six points ahead of Falkirk. and with two home games over

# **Naylor provides Suffolk punch**

late winner to earn Ipswich ing as a draw after Devlin had Town a deserved 2-1 victory at scored within three minutes of Sheffield United yesterday, coming off the bench in the 74th after Paul Devlin looked to minute. Adam Tanner failed to point for Sheffield United with his first goal of the season.

Naylor rose highest to reach manager, Ray Graydon, was Jamie Clapham's free-kick in hand to prod the ball home. that most of the newcomers the dving seconds to deliver an would be back to boost the explosive finish to a poor game. harsh on George Burley's men, points behind Sunderland.

JEWSON NATIONAL

ley ....28 B'bam/Solthuil14 ......18 Rossiyn Park 15

1,357.715

SATURDAY'S LOTTERY UPDATE.

Draw date: 19/12/98. The winning numbers: 9, 10, 18, 25, 28, 48. Sonus number: 34. Total Sales: £63,185,293. Prize Fund: £32,569,387 (45% of ticket sales plus £4,136,006 Rollover amount).

Maybe, just maybe. THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot control computer system shall prevail.

clear after Richard Wright had produced a stunning save to deny Andy Campbell's closerange volley, and Devlin was on

A draw would have been

RUGBY UNION RESULTS

TWO NORTH

TWO SOUTH

£2,372,249

£91,422

RICHARD NAYLOR grabbed a The match seemed to be end- who took the lead for the first time four minutes into the second half. Bobby Petta fired in a which deflected off his teammate, Kieron Dyer, into the path of Samassi Abou, who for his first goal during his

Ipswich are second, eight

speculative shot from 25 yards calmly fired low past Alan Kelly loan spell from West Ham.

TENNENT'S VELVET

PREMIERSHIP FIRST DIVISION

SECOND DIVISION

£2,376.972 £1,484,820

£13.577,150

THIRD DIVISION Grangemouth .....14 Glasgow S Stewart's Mel PP15 Berwick ... Postponed: Ayr v Preston Lodge.

ANGLO-WELSH MATCHES

Bedford .......14 Swanses .....28 Wasps .......28 Cardiff .......24

SWALEC CUP FOURTH ROUND

FOURTH ROUND

Group A: Dinas Powys 5 Pontypeol Utd
16, Ebbw Vale 73 Treherbert 15, Group
B: Glynneath 10 Trimsaran 25, Postpomed: Cross Keys v Durwant. Group C:
Bridgend 29 Treorthy 24; Talywan 9 Nantymoel 14, Group D: Beddau 0 Whitiand
35; Pontypool 64 Rigos 6, Group E: Penygraig 10 Rhymney 8; Wresham 15 Neath
46, Group P: Montmouth 11 Llanhilleth 20;
Ystradgynlais 32 Vardre 20, Group G:
Llanharan 19 Newport 25; Risca 8 Swansea
57, Group 9 Newport 25; Risca 8 Swansea
57, Group 9 Newport 25; Risca 8 Swansea
57, Group 18; Heol-Yow 10 Tondu 27; Hirwaun 19 Kidwelly 9, Group I: Narberth 19
Caerphilly 29, Postponed: Cwmaon v
Bedwas, Group J: Abercumbol 5 Maesteg
29; Betws 3 Blackwood 15, Group R:
Blaengarw 10 Ymysybwi 10 (Ymysybwi win
on mery ream rule): Pontyclun 0 Llanelli
80, Group L: Pencoed 11 Abertillery 25,
Postpomed: Carollif v Llandovery, Group
M: Cwmllynfell 13 Taff's Well 7: Pontypridd 71 Aberason 15, Group R: Bulkh
Wells 5 Rummey 26; Tredegar 20 Merchyr
16, Group C: Aberason 49 Carmarthen
Oulns 22; Ystrad Rhondda 19 South Wales
Police 13 Group P: Bonymaen 51 Newbridge 12; Oakdale 7 UWIC 12.

AIB LEAGUE

PRIST DIVISION: Ballymena 23 St. Mary's 13, Blackrock Coll 24 Shamon 26; Buccaneers 21 Ferenue 16; Garryowen 46 Galwegtans 0; Lansdowine 15 Contact 3; Woung Munster 17 Constitution 11, \$8000ND DIVISIONE: Ballynahluch 6 Derry 27; Bective Rangers 15 Wanderers 16; Dolphin 6 Did Westey 5; Durgamon 22 Portadown 27; Otd Behredere 3 Malone 7; Sharries 10 Genestoners 26; Sharies 10 Genestoners 26; Sharies 10 Genestoners 26; Sharies 100; S 7; Skerries 10 Greystones 26; Sunda 23 Old Crescent 6 UCC 6 DLSP 13.

#### ager, who has suggested he the festive period they are clear would welcome the position on favourites for promotion.

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# THAT WAS THE WEEKEND THAT WAS

**EDITED BY JON CULLEY** 

BRIAN DEANE Middlesbrough



# Bristol's foreign legion cope with culture shock

BRISTOL CITY, with only two wins in 12 League games fol-lowing Saturday's defeat at Norwich, have an unashamed policy of buying foreign in hopes of leaving the lower reaches of the First Division.

They believe that the domestic market is simply too expensive, and in the last fortnight alone have bought the Hungarian defender Vilmos Sebok, the Danish goalkeeper Bo Andersen and the Norwegian midfielder Kenneth Storvik, the combined fees adding up to less than £1m.

pital for emergency surgery

on a throat abcess, the former

England manager Graham

back on his feet. But he is,

none the less, having to suffer

purgatory. He is not allowed to

Taylor left touchline du-

ties to his assistant, Kenny

Jackett, at Grimsby on Sat-

urday, and watched the Na-

tionwide League match from

the Blundell Park directors'

"I'm under strict orders to do what the doctor tells me."

Taylor said. "And that includes

Jackett to deliver the half-time doing."

resting my voice."

Taylor reluctantly

joins silent order

AFTER BEING rushed to hos- rollickings in the dressing-

Taylor is grateful just to be hind four minutes into the

a kind of football manager's after Gifton Noel-Williams had

Naturally, it was left to excellent job he has been

equalised.

performance.

But trawling talent from the far corners of Europe is not without its problems, and language barriers are only part of the culture shock.

When Ion Tistemitanu, the Moldovan international captain due to launch his City career after Christmas, arrived for transfer talks at Ashton Gate, he was less concerned with wages than with how many times he would be allowed to see his wife. "Apparently, players in Moldova don't get to see their families more than four times a year,"

room, But, to add to Taylor's

frustrations, he was helpless

to intervene as Watford fell be-

second half and then conced-

ed a late Grimsby winner

the chance to go second in the

First Division table, but Tay-

lor was no less complimenta-

ry about Jackett's stand-in

control of team affairs for an-

other two to four weeks," he

"I do not envisage taking

"But I am more than happy

to allow Kenny to continue the

The defeat denied Watford

the City chairman, Scott Davidson, recalled. "He was delighted when I said he could see her as much as he'd like."

Tistemitanu chose City despite offers from Spartak Moscow and Romania's Steaua Bucharest. If granted a work permit, he will receive a welcome pay rise after the £225,000 move from Zimbrul Chisinau. In Moldova, he earned £100-a-month, despite international experience against the forwards of Italy. Germany and, at Wembley. England.

### KEY NUMBERS

the years since Chelsea last led the top division (First or Premiership) of the English leagues.

Nottingham Forest's run of failures to keep a clean sheet.

The meetings since Tot-tenham last managed a League win over Chelsea

Middlesbrough's wait – in years – for a win at Old Trafford. Before Saturday, the last was in 1930

I TOLD YOU SO We are not in crisis. We are at a turning point

Gerard Houllier, speaking before Saturday's 2-0 win over Sheffield Wednesday. So far, so good - but will it last?

JAMIE REDKNAPP

MATT ELLIOTT

**GUSTAVO POYET** 

RIO FERDINAND West Ham . .

STEPHEN GLASS

PREMIERSHIP TEAM OF THE WEEK

DEAN GORDON

ad: Glaniluca Vialii, the first manager to take Chelsea to the top since Bobby Campbell in

#### Missing... making it... and mistaken



OYVIND LEONHARDSEN LIVERPOOL

Signed for £3.5m from Wimbledon in June 1997, the 28-year-old midfielder capped his first season at Anfield by helping Norway reach the

second phase of France '98. However, he has failed to find favour with the new Liverpool manager Gérard Houllier. Indeed, Houllier's first match in sole charge last month was Leonhard-



**DAMIEN JOHNSON** BLACKBURN

Born in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, the 20-year-old wide midfielder first caught the eye during a loan spell with Nottingham Forest last season and has become a frequent member of the Rovers first team. A clever ball player already recognised at international level, he will provide hot competition for new arrival of Keith Giliespie at Ewood Park.

....2 Sheff Wed .. ....2 Middlesbroo

...2 Forest Green

Newcastle ......1 Leicester . Nottm Forest .... 2 Blackburg

FOOTBALL CONFERENCE



Under-pressure Barcelona coach Van Gaal could use some Frank advice on boxing clever. But if surviving life's ups and downs is the name of the game then the cerebral Dutchman will no doubt find Frank's his man.



## Kidd keen to lure Butt to Blackburn

Nicky Butt away from Manchester United, according to the People. The new Blackburn manager, their story says, offered £5.5m within days of leaving Old Trafford and is now ready to up his bid to £7m. The Sunday Mirror says he is ready to offload Kevin Davies to help finance incoming deals, but reckons his targets are Barnsley's Ashley Ward and West Ham's John Hartson. Kidd is also keen on United defenders David May and Henning Berg - both ex-Blackburn -

according to the Express. The Express says Ward remains a target for Leeds and Sheffield Wednesday. who, the People thinks, have turned down a £2m offer from Chariton for Andy Booth. The People believes Ward will go if Barnsley succeed in a £1m move for young York striker Richard Cresswell. The News of the World, meanwhile, suggests Leeds are after Coven-

BRIAN KIDD wants to prise try's Darren Huckerby, but will have a £5m offer rejected by the Highfield Road club, who want £8m.

Liverpool are checking on Real Madrid goalkeeper Bodo Ulgner, says the Erpress, while the People speculates that Anfield manager Gérard Houllier has become an admirer of Leicester midfielder Neil Lennon. The News of the World

says Barcelona are ready to offer Alex Ferguson £2m a year to succeed Louis van Gaal as coach, and reports that new Sampdoria boss David Platt has £3m to keep Sheffield Wednesday stayaway Paolo Di Canio in Italy.

On the business front, the Mirror predicts that a sell-off of West Ham stars will pave the way for a £35m takeover. while the News of the World says NTL's takeover of Newcastle will provide Ruud Gullit with a £20m transfer pot, and a further £15m for youth development.

ITALIAN LEAGUE

Locatelii 5 40,000

Masinga 37 Innocenti 90 10,000

protta sent off, 55

Juventus (2) ...... : Inzaghi 20, 29, 87 Salemitana s Salvato

Orcega 85 23,000

#### THE WEEK AHEAD

Today: Aston Villa, whose victory over Arsenal last weekend was their first in five Premiership matches, bid to return to the top by winning at Chariton, who are among five clubs beginning to lose touch with the rest of the division.

from the division.

Tomorrow: In a quiet build-up to Christmas. Notts County's home the with Hull City in the first round of the Auto Windscreens Shield (Northern Section) represents not merely the only game in town but the only one in the country before Boding Day. None the less, a rush for tickets at Meadow Lane is not anticipated.

at Meadow Lane is not anticipated.

Starday: The usual assortment of funny kick-off times as Arsenal meet West Ham at noon and Blackburn take on Aston Villa at 6pm. In between, Coventry (v Tottenham), Everton (v Derby), Manchester United (v Forest), Middlesbrough (v Liverpool), Newcastle (v Leeds) and Sheffield Wednesday (v Leicester) get under way at the normal 3pm. Southampton (v Cheisea) and Wimbiedon (v Charitton) also have noon starts. In the Nationwide League, First Division leaders Sunderland are at Tranmere and second-placed lipswich meet Portsmouth. Second Division leaders Fulnam face Coichester at noon, the same time as Third Division pace-setters Cardiff meet Shrewsbury. North of the border, Scottish Premier leaders Rangers are away to fourti-placed St Johnstone.

# FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP 5-game form PI Pts GD W D L F A W D L F A Most recent on right Upcoming matches 48 33 ±12 6 3 0 15 5 2 6 1 14 12 DWDDW 29 Der. Man Liter (11): 9 Jean Newcastle ( +10 6 2 1 17 11 3 4 1 10 6

3	Man Utd	18	31	+13	6:	3.	1	24	12	2	4	2	12	11	MDDDL	29 Dec Chelses (A); 10 Lag West Ham tH 16 Jan Leicester (A); 30 Jan Charlton (H).
4	Middlesbrough	18	30	+9	4	5	0	15	7	3	4	2	15	14	WDDWW	28 Dec Derby (A): 9 Jan Asson Villa (H 16 Jan Leeds (A): 30 Jan Lecester (H).
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7	West Ham	18	29	0	5	3-		14	10	3	.2.	4	8	12	WWLLW	28 Dec Coverery (H); 10 Jan Man Utd (A 16 Jan Sheff Wed (H); 30 Jan Wimbledon (A
8	Wimbledon	18	26	-6	5	3	1	14	9	2	2	5	9	20	LWLWW	28 Dec Leeds (A); 9 Jan Derby (H);16 Ja Tortenham (A); 30 Jan West Ham (H).
9	Liverpool	18	25	+7	4	3	2	17-	10	3	- 1	- 5	12	-12	WILLIAM	28 Dec Newcastle (H): 9 Jan Arstnal (A) 16 Jan Southampson (H): 90 Jan Coventry (A)
10	Newcastle	18	24	+1	5	2	2	14	10	1	4	4	8	11	MOGMT	28 Dec Liverpool (A): 9 Jan Chelses (H 17 Jan Charlton (A): 30 Jan Aston Villa (H
	Leicester	18	24	+1	5	2	2	14	9-	1	4	- 4	7	11	LDWWL	28 Dec Stackburn (N); 5 Jan Everton (A) 16 Jan Man (M) (4); 30 Jan Middlesbrough (A)
12	Derby	18	24	+1	2	5	2	8	8	3	4	2	10	9	LWDDD	28 Dec Middlesbrough (H): 9 Jan Wimbledon (A 16 Jan Blackburn (H): 30 Jan Sheff Wed (A)
13	Tottenham	18	23	-5	4	3 -	2	15	15	2	2	- 5	8	13	WLWDL	28 Dec Everton (H); 9 Jan Sheff West (A) 16 Jan Wambiedon (H); 30 Jan Blackburn (A)
14	Sheff Wed	18	22	+1	5	2	2	13	5	1	2	6	7	14	DLWWL	28 Dec Aston Villa (A), 9 Jan Tottenham (H) 16 Jan West Ham (A); 30 Jan Derby (H).
15	Everton	18	22	-5	2	5	2=	ͺ3	5	3	2	4	9	12	WWDWL	28 Dec Tottentom (A): 9 Jan Lekrester (H) 18 Jan Aston Villo (A): 30 Jan Notim Forest (H)
16	Charlton	17	16	-5	2	3	2	13	8	1	4	5	9	19	DLLLL	28 Dec Arseral (H); 9 Jan Southampton (A) 17 Jan Newcastle (H); 30 Jan Man Utd (A)
17	Coventry	18	16	-11	3	3	<b>-3</b> ∧	10	11-	1	1	7	- 5	15	מוומו	28 Dec West Ham (A); 9 Japa Nottin Forest (H) 16 Jan Cheises (A): 30 Jan Liverpool (H).
18	Blackburn	18	14	-9	3	2	4	10	10	0	3	6	7	16	FLIMDD	28 Dec Leicester (A): 9 Jan Leeds (H) 16 Jan Derby (A): 30 Jan Toctenham (H).
19	Southampton	18	13	-20	Ž	2	-5·^	12	18	1	2	6	3	17	MILLIM	28 Dec Nottm Forest [A]; 5 Jan Charkon [H]: 16 Jan Liverpool [A]; 30 Jan Leeds [H].
20 3	Nottm Forest	18	12	-15	1	5	3	8	11	1	1	7	9	21	LDLLD	28 Dec Southampton (H): 9 Jan Coventry (A).16 Jan Arsenal (H): 30 Jan Everton (A).
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	Pl	Pts	GS	W	D	L	F A	W	D	L	F A	Most recent on right	Upcoming matches
1 Sunderland	24	53	53	9_	-2-	1 - 2	9 - 6	6	∵ 6.	0 2	4 9	MMMMD	Booking Day Transmine (A), 28 Dec Crewe (H); 9 Jan OPR (A); 17 Jan Loswich (H).
2 lpswich	24	45	33	7	1	4	15 7	6	5	1	8 8	MDMIM	Bording Day Portsmouth (H): 28 Dec Wolves (A): 9 Jan Grimsby (H): 17 Jan Sunderland (A).
3 - Bradford City	23	40	42	7-	2	2 2	2 <b>5</b> 12	5	2	5 1	6 15	LIMWW	Booking Day Bolton (A), 28 Dec franmere (H); 9 Jain Stockport (A); 16 Jain Crewe (H)
4 Watford	24	40	42	6	5	1 1	9 12	5	2	5 2	3 23	WDDWL	Bodag Day Bristol City (H): 28 Dec Norwich (A): 9 Jan Portsmouth (H): 16 Jan Wolves (A).
5 Norwich	. 23	40_	39	-6-	4 :	1. 2	12 13	- 5	. 3.	4 1	7 17	LWDDW	Booking Day OPR (A), 28 Dec Watford (H), 9 Jan Crewe (A): 16 Jan West Brom (H).
6 Bolton	23	39	44	7	3	2 2	6 14	3	6	2 1	8 18	WWDDW	Booling Day Brackord (H): 28 Dec Port Vale (A): 10 Jan Crystal Palace (H): 16 Jan Sheff Utd (A).
Birmingham	24	39	37	5.	-5-	-2, -1	7 10	6	1	5 2	0 - 14	<b>CMTMT</b>	Booking Day Sheff Und (H): 28 Dac Bury (A): 9 Jan Port Vale (H): 16 Jan Barrisley (A).
8 Huddersfield	24	38	35	8	3	1 2	23 12	3	2	7 1	2 28	WLWLW	Booleg Day Grimsby (H); 28 Dec Shelf Utd (A); 9 Jan Bury (H); 16 Jan Portsmouth (A)
9 Grimsby	24	38	30	17	4	L.	0 9	4	- 1.	7, 1	0 18	MIMMM	Booking Day Huddersfield (A); 28 Dec Stockport (H); 9 Jan Ipswich (A); 16 Jan Oxford Uni (H).
10 West Brom	24	34	43	7	0	5 2	25 18	3	4	5 1	8 22	WLDWL	Boxing Day Port Voie (H): 28 Dec Crystal Palace (A): 9 Jam Barnsley (H): 16 Jam Norwich (A).
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### FOOTBALL RESULTS

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matches postponed.

RYBEAN LEAGUE Prezuler Division:
Aldershot 1 Heybridge 1; Billencay 1
Dulwich 0; Bishop's Stortford 1 Bromley
3; Onesham 0 Basingstoke 2; Gravesend
2 Dagenham & Redbridge 0; Hendon 1
Carshalton 1; Purifiere 6 Walton & Hersham 1; Slough 0 Boreham Wood 3; 5t
Albans 1 Harrow 1; Sutton Und 1 Enfield
1. Postponed: Hampton v Aylesbury (P19
Pts41); 2 Billencay (2D-38); 3 Purfleet
(21-37); 4 Sutton Und (18-37). First Division: Barton 2 Berkhamsted 0; Bognor
Regis 4 Wembley 1; Braintree 1 Grays 1:
Chertsey 0 Molessy 2: Oxford City 2 Worthing 2; Wealdstone 1 Leatherhead 1;
Yeading 1 Camey Island 3. Other motches postponed. Second Division: Chalfont
St Peter 5 Whenhoe 2; Harlow 3 Bedford Town 0; Hertford 0 Edgware 1: Horsham 1 Hemel Hempstead 5; Hungerhord
0 Metropolitan Police 2: Leghton 1 Windsor & Eton 1; Northwood 0 Banstead 2;
Thame 3 Brakknell 0; Tooting 6 Mitcham
0 Marlow 2; Witham 2 Abingdon Town
2; Woldingham 2 Barking 3. Third Division: Areley 2 Cheshunt 1; Dorlding 1
Croydon Athletic 5; Ford Und 5 Southall
1; Ningsbury 1 Lewes 2: Tilbury 1 Camberley 1; Tiring 2 Epsom & Ewell 1; Ware
2 Flackwell Heath 0; Wingate & Finchley
5 Clapton 0. Other motches postponed.
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Third
romed: Manchester Und 2 Everton 2. Priday: Manchester Und 2 Everton 2. Pri-(20-44); 3 Lyons (20-32); 4 Rennes (20-32).

ALBANIAN LEAGUE: Skenderbeu Korce 4
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1; Shlumbin: Peqin 5 Laci 0; Teuta Durres 1
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Vore 0; Vilazinia Shkoder 3 Lishinja 0; Besa
Kanaje 0 Ethasani 0; Burnei 0 SK Trana Trana
0. Strendings: 1 SK Trana (P15 Pts30); 2
Bylis Balish (15-29), 3 Lushnja (15-28)

# SCOTTISH PREMIER

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<b>DUTCH LEAGUE:</b> Twente Enschede 0 Vitesse
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1 (Lindenbergh 44) AZ Alkmaar 1 (Hulberts
21); Heereneen 1 (El Khartabi 51) MVV Maas-
All DESCRICTIVE TO BUT MAN MAN
tricht 1 (Ernerson 70); RKC Waahvijk 2
(Lanckohr 9. Van Arum 57) NAC Breda 1 (Van
As 17]; Utrecht 4 (Robbemond 4, 25, Kuyt
6, Mortel 77) Sparta Rotterdam, 1 (Van der
Unesca Edit Empered & Obs. Microbia 701
Hoeven 56): Feyenoord 1 (Van Wonderen 70)
Alao 1 (McCarthy 38). Standings: 1 Feyeno-
ord (P18 Pts43): 2 Vitesse Arnhem (19-37):
3 Ajax (19-34).
SPANISH LEAGUE: Deportivo La Coruna 2
(Dialminha pen 17. Schurrer 85) Real Beus
(Dialminha pen 17, Schizrer 85) Real Beus 2 (Zarandona 16, Oli 89), Villarreal O Ath-
lerk Bilbao 1 (Urzai: 54); Atletico Madrid 0
HERE BIRGAD I (UPZAE: 34); ACHECICO MAKITIO V
Zaragoza 0; Mallorca 1 (Dani 54) Racing San-
rander 1 (Sanchez 72), Oviedo 1 (Dety
Vaides 75; Real Madrid D: Real Sociedad 2
THE STATE OF THE S

Capdevita 35, Parralo 75) Valencia 1 (Fari-
nos 42); Alaves 1 (Azcoltia 68) Salamanca
0 Scandings: 1 Mallorca (P15 Pts29); 2
Celta (15-25); 3 Valencia (15-25).
GREEK LEAGUE: Panathkaikos 5 Apollon 0;
Panelefsiniakos 1 Kavala 1; Paniliakos 1 PAOK
2: Proceedition 3 Estimbles Asteras 0: OFI 2 londers
1 Conditions 1 Champiakos (P13 Pts31): 2
<ol> <li>Standings: 1 Olympiakos (P13 Pts31); 2 AEK (13-29); 3 PACK (14-29).</li> </ol>
BELGIAN LEAGUE: Ostend 2 Ghent 2:
Anderlecht 3 Beveren 1; Lommel 2 Excelsion
Mouscron 3: Lokeren 2 Kortrijk 1: St-Truiden
O Westerio O; Lierse 1 Genk 1; Germinal
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Charletol 1: Eendracht Aalst 1 Standard
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P1540); 2 Genk (19-38), 3 Lokeren (19-34):
4 Excelsior Mouscron (19-34).
PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Boowista 3
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Porto 3 Sporting Lisbon 2.
TURKISH LEAGUE: Erzurumspor () Fener-
bahce 2; Aliay 1 Karabukspor 0; Ankaragu-
cu 1 Sakaryaspor 0; Istanbuispor 0
Genclerbirge 0; Koczelispor 2 Adanaspor 1,
Semediant: 1 Fenerbabce (P17 Prs 38) 2
Standings: 1 Fenerbake (P17 Pts36): 2 Register (16-37): 3 Trabonsors (17-36)

25	incipae internazionare y noma
19	ASIAN GAMES (Bengkok) Final: Iran (Karimi-Pashaki 6, Bagheri 26) kuwait
14	(Karimi-Pashaki 6, Bagheri 76) Kuwait
10	Third and fourth place play-off: Chi
	3 JFan Zhiyi 25, Wang Peng 66, Ma Ming
	83) Thailand 0
	LEAGUE OF WALES: Earry 5 Aberystwy
1	1. Caemarfon 2 TNS Llansantifraid 1: Cae
0	sws 0 Rhayader 0: Cwmbran 4 Holywell
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-,4	Bangor Oty 1. Leading positions: 1 Bar (P14. Pts34): 2 Cwmbran (15-30),
,0	(P14, Pts34): 2 Cwmbran (15-30),
Pps	Aberystwyth (14-26)
43	SMIRNOPF IRESK LEAGUE Premier Din
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24	field 1. Leading positions: 1 Glenrors
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24	(20-37). First Division: Ards 3 Limava
18	field 1. Leading positions: 1 Gienros (P20, Pc42): 2 Linfield (20-40): 3 Crusade (20-37). First Division: Ards 3 Limava- 0, Ballyclare 3 Bangor 0; Distillery 1 Lart 0; Dungannon Swifts 2 Carrick Rangers
17	0; Dungannon Swifts 2 Carrick Rangers
74	HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAN
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Kuyt	38); 3 Finn Harps (17-27)
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70)	Accrington Stanley 1 Frickley 1, Bisho
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San-	Bamber Bridge 1. Leading positions: Worksop (P2), Prs37); 2 Altrincham (2 36); 3 Guiseley (18-35), 4 Gateshead (2)
Dety ad 2	35); 5 Bamber Bridge (22-35). Fire
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anca	Ashton Utd 1 Nether Field 1; Congleto 2 Whitley Bay 2; Farsley Celbc 1 Mattoo 1; Fliston 3 Eastwood Town 2; Greena Bradford Park Avenue 2, Harrogate Town
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MORTH WESTERN TRAINS Floodlik Troplay First round second leg: Atherton Colleries v Warmigton Court.
PONTRIS LEAGUE Second Divinion: Newcastle v Shrewsbury (2.0) (of Newcastle Rugtop) (100). Taked Division: Wigen v Bury (2.0)
LEAGUE CUP Group Tuce Barnsley v York
(7.0). Group Three Man City v West Brom
(7.0) (of Abruchom FC).
AUON INSURANCE COMBINATION First
Division: Cambridge v Brentford (2.0), Liton v Tottenham (2.0); Reading v Millwall.

# THE INDEPENDENT Monday 21 December 1998

# Reds still a ghost of Christmas past

PALPITATIONS ON the bench and periods of anxious silence in the stands provided testi-mony that the Liverpool renaissance remains a fantasy for

a Christmas yet to come. But, for management and supporters alike, this humble offering will suffice as a Christmas present, warding off as it does the humiliation of the club's worse sequence in 44

Gérard Houllier's repeated claims of grounds for optimism meet with growing scepticism on Merseyside, and the patience of the natives would surely have snapped after a ninth defeat in 12 games.

Instead they were served with a deserved if unspectacular victory. Liverpool sum- nary one.

BY DERICK ALLSOP

Sheffield Wednesday

moning enough quality from the archives in 15 vibrant and destructive first-half minutes to expose the frailty of Sheffield Wednesday's much vaunted

That Liverpool then reverted to the sterile football which has characterised more recent times was confirmation that no seasonal miracle had been worked. A kind of balancing act had been accomplished. This latest evidence suggests that Liverpool are a slightly better than ordinary side, and Wednesday an ordi-

rations, of course. For Wednesday, "ordinary" represents no small achievement in the Premiership. At the start of the season, and only a few weeks ago, they were considered relegation fodder. Now they look likely to hold their own in the

Benito Carbone, all impish skills and elusive spins, brings the propensity for the unexpected, the rest supply dependable, functional stability. On another day Andy Booth might have headed them back into contention: on this day he looked like another willing but ordinary player.

upper league.

The one man who might dance to Carbone's tune, of course, is his countryman

for a return to active duty on Boxing Day but chose to make his way on to the missing persons file rather than Wednesday's training ground.

By common consent, Liverpool have been missing a dominant central defender for some considerable time, but on Saturday the back three coped relatively comfortably with Booth and generally managed to keep even Carbone at a safe

They will meet distinctly more menacing attacking forces, and Steve Staunton in particular will not always be as fortunate as he was on this occasion. Wednesday were simply incapable of exploiting his now

Although Paul Ince is a play-er of limited means, the midfield is a resourceful and potent department when Jamie Redknapp steers its course, while Patrik Berger is an important source of goals. His right-foot blast which produced the open-

ing for Liverpool was some-

ng of a collector's item. Michael Owen effectively put the match beyond Wednesday with Liverpool's second, but this was a strangely fleeting performance by the 19-year-old, and the attack is still a tantalising conundrum for Houllier. Robbie Fowler, his other striker, had one of those afternoons that challenge your recollection of the swaggering youngster who scored goals and de-

stroyed defences for fun.

and squandered two more in the second when he could have spared Houllier and Phil Thompson all that touch-line

The restoration of a fully fit, committed and focused Steve McManaman - or a direct replacement if he is to leave would give Liverpool another dimension that would also help to lift them above that sad. "slightly better than ordinary"

Their overall problem is their inability to sustain the intensity of their football through a full match - or even half a

Fifteen minute spells of explosive football are insufficient to see off better teams than

FERDINO

He scuffed a first half chance Wednesday and bring back some much missed fame and glory to Anfield.

Had Wednesday managed a goal in the second half the entire stadium would have been a bag of nerves. But as it is Houllier has a welcome breather. There will be more tests and perhaps more palpitations to endure in the weeks and months ahead.

Goals: Berger (18) 1-0: Owen (34) 2-0.
Liverpool (3-5-2): James: Carragher, Studion, Babo: Heggen (Kagner, 82), Redinapp, ince. Berger, Bjornebye; Fowler, Owen (Riede, 87) Sebasticuses not used: Friede (gk), McAere, Thompson.

# Logic of Strachan hard to follow

BY LINDSAY HARRISON

Derby County

CALL THIS old fashioned. but surely the idea of substitutions. when the scores are level, is to produce a goal. So the reasoning of Gordon Strachan, when Coventry had been pegged back to 1-1, in leaving the country's second leading goalscorer on the bench for 88 minutes must remain hidden in managerial subterfuge.

Coventry City need goals. They also understand their place in the food chain that is football's natural hierarchy. So they sold the man now the Premiership's leading scorer for £5.75m (and next day Dion Dublin scored twice for Aston Villa): six weeks later they bought a 22-year-old, 17-goal marksman (and next day John Aloisi was named as substitute).

Fair play, no flaw in the argument thus far. But when relegation-threatened Coventry, to hand back their full title temporarily mislaid last season, have failed to capitalise on total first-half dominance against Derby players still musing over what to buy the wife for Christmas, then logic suggests that throwing on a youngster keen for success might be a handy

But when did logic have anything to do with football? Last week Jim Smith, the Derby manager, played three substitutes and saw one, his goal-hungry striker Dean Sturridge, grab an equaliser against Chelsea. This time he threw on a centre-back and a defensive midfielder and saw the latter, Lee Carsley, equalise Noel Whelan's first-half effort.

"Football's becoming more and more of a squad game and, fortunately, we've got a good squad," said Steve McClaren, the Derby coach. "John's not had much time with us," said Strachan. "But his time will come." and recalled how, last January. when leading at Chelsea, he brought on a fourth striker in giving Viorel Moldovan his debut. "I got my fingers burned," said Strachan. "We went from 1-0 up to 3-1 down."

brave. Certainly Strachan threw down the gauntlet to his first-choice forwards in buying Aloisi from Portsmouth for £650,000 and he has a longerterm view than one Midlands derby. Whelan responded well. looking sharp from the off. snapping up his sixth goal of the season when Mart Poom could only parry Steve Froggatt's 17th-minute shot. But when he fired over the bar when wellplaced two minutes into firsthalf injury time. Derby appreciated their reprieve.

Smith clearly has the golden touch with substitutions. He asked the left wing-back Rory Delap to play as an inside- forward and, assisted by the striker who did survive the half-time chop, Paolo Wanchope, it was the former Carlisle midfielder who centred for Carsley to score on the turn. It was the Republic of Ireland international's first goal for 15 months. But, then, Derby clearly know how to make their substitutions pay. Conestry City (4-4-2): Hedman; Nieson, Shaw, Williams, Edworthy (Breen, 73), Teller (Boateng, 89), McAlfister (Alois, 88), Soliveth, Froggatt Huckerty, Whelan, Substitutes not used: Ogrizonic (grt), Shikon.



the League, in November 1989, the team included Kevin Wilson, Alan Dickens, Ken Monkou, Dave Beasant and David Lee. John Burnstead was the regular substitute. Few took their challenge seriously and the doubters were quickly justified as Chelsea took two points from the next five games, conceding 16 goals in the process.

The Chelsea team that reached the Premiership's apex with a 2-0 win at Stamford Bridge on Saturday included Gianfranco Zola, Franck Leboeuf, Gianluca Vialli, Gus Poyet and Dan Petrescu. Tore Andre Flo was on the bench. This time the challenge is being taken very seriously indeed.

Listen to the experts, and not just the bookies who have marked them down as favourites, George Graham, thrice Spurs' 10 men. a championship winner - once as a player, twice as a manager - confirmed: "They have the credentials to stay there. They have a lot of talent but that's been there for a couple of years. This year they have consistency and they can handle the physical side of it. The squad is formidable and they are more together as a unit."

That said, Graham felt his Tottenham side would have. taken a point had it not been for the dismissal of Chris Armstrong an hour into a fractious match. He may be right, and they resisted stoutly with 10, but it is through winning such matches that championships

As Graham said, it is not just that the players who, with due respect to Ted Drake's champions of 1954-55, are probably the best squad in Chelsea's history, it is their attitude. In the past talented Chelsea sides have been fragile under pressure, either buckling in the



more recently, losing their heads and kicking out. Not this

They competed physically with Spurs- and staved cool mentally, continuing to play patient football even after 20 fruitless minutes attacking

"We are better than the op-

This is in part due to the fit-

which Graham picked out as Babyaro, Petrescu, Zola, Di cepted as the best footballing on Babayaro's pass, was his Premiership. The team then ad-

team (though the absence of both Dennis Wise and Graeme Le Saux may have helped).

As important as turning draws into wins is their success this year in turning defeats

into draws - as illustrated at Old Trafford in midweek. Having lost far too many matches last season they remain unbeaten this, ever since that opening day defeat at Coventry.

ditioning coach at Juventus.

position in the last 15 minutes because we work really hard in the week," said Vialli. "If you do that you get reward."

Le Saux (injured) Chelsea were also missing long-term casualties Pierluigi Casiraghi and Eddie Newton, and the less seriously injured Marcel Desailly and Roberto Di Matteo. And they still had Flo on the

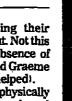


ness programme instituted by Vialli under the expert eye of Antonio Pintus, his former con-

Then there is the depth. As well as Wise (suspended) and

beuch.

Depth aids consistency,



All arms and Les, as Franck Leboeuf challenges Tottenham's Ferdinand during Chelsea's impressive home win the most important ingredient Matteo, Vialli, Desailly and Le team in the Premiership and in the championship mix. Ex- Saux possessing examples perience is similarly crucial: Alex Ferguson is fond of reflecting that a team has to lose a championship before they can win it, as his own Man-

chester United team and Blackburn found. This ought not apply to Chelsea. It may be more than 40 years since the championship trophy resided at Stamford Bridge but the players

know all about winning titles. Between them they could put on quite a display of championship medals with Ed de Goey, Albert Ferrer, Celestine

goal-hungry poacher-in-chief.

be seen on Saturday, sheepishiy

delaying his proposed £5.25m

transfer from Milan. It had

once cost Newcastle £5.1m less

to secure the services of the

wide boy who is, according to

the Carling Opta statistics, top

of the Premiership's crossers.

But Kevin Keegan chose to

Ibrahim Ba was nowhere to

pertinently three of them have been won in Serie A, and Le Saux did so in England.

As Vialli noted, their knowledge will prove crucial in the coming months: "This gives us all confidence, but teams will play harder against us now so life will be more difficult in the future. But we should be able to cope with it as we have experienced players in the side who are used to staying at the top. I am curious as to how we

will react but confident." Chelsea are generally ac-

their passing, control and spanning seven countries. Most movement can be exceptional. This only occurred in patches on Saturday with several players, notably Vialli and Zola, below par. However, Petrescu. whose physical commitment seems to have increased im-

> came uncertain, was in fine form and Poyet as impressive As he grows in influence, the Uruguayan could do for Chelsea what Emmanuel Petit did for Arsenal last year. His 80th-minute goal, scored off

> mensely since his place be-

10th of the season and, said Vialli: "He is the complete midfield player. He is one of the most clever players I have played with.

"He scores goals, his runs are clever, his passes precise, he works very hard for the team and has an unbelievable attitude. He is always positive. a player managers always want in the squad." Ten minutes later Vialli won

possession in midfield and Petrescu was already racing down the right as Leboeuf launched the ball forward. Flo tucked in the Romanian's cross and the the post after Vialli had flicked blue flag took flight on top of the

Saints do themselves good turn

journed to Di Matteo's latest restaurant venture. Aston Villa can budge them from the summit at Charlton tonight but it would be a huge surprise if Chelsea do not regain it between now and May. Goals: Poyer (80) 1-0: Flo (90) 2-0 Chelsea (4-4-2): De Goey: Ferrer, Duber-ry, Leboeuf, Lambourde (Goldback, 90): Pe-tresCu, Morris, Poyer, Babayaro: Vialli, 20ta (Flo, 71) Substituties not used: Hitch-cock (gk). Terry, Nicholis.

Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker: Carr, Young, Campbell. Sinton (Edinburgh, 74): Fox (Alien, 85). Anderton, Nielsen, Ginola (Clemence, 65): Armstrong, Ferdinand. Sibastinutes not isseed: Carlescond. Referee: G Poll (Tring).

# Glass shines but jewellery hidden

IN YEARS to come, they may well be asking in the pubs and clubs of Tyneside: whatever happened to the unlikely lads?

Big Dunc and the not quite so big Al may yet emerge as the Terry and Bob of the new millennium in Newcastle. But Andreas Andersson and Temur Ketsbaia could only be described as a striking partnership in one respect. A more strikingly indifferent pairing would be difficult to imagine.

Rund Gullit might have ventured that the mop-topped Swede and the polished-pated Georgian both "played well" at St James' Park on Saturday. But then Newcastle's manager also suggested that "every club

Ketsbaia, it must be said, is simply an erratic variation on the theme of footballing enigmas. He is just as liable to score the goal of the season as fall flat on his face in front of goal. Andersson is just... well. just dreadful. The Toon Army over-

Newcastle United

cheered when he stayed down injured after attempting to tackle Neil Lennon, then jeered when Gullit decided to keep him on and withdraw Ketsbaia instead to accommodate Shear-

Not everybody on the Tyne of confidence," he admitted.

BY SIMON TURNBULL

Leicester City

Elliott with only minor cuts, and that the flu-ridden Ferguson is expected to be out of his sick bed before Leeds come on Boxing Day. By then the Magpies might even have a new man on er's return as a substitute 10 their wings to feed their crossminutes into the second half. craving target man and their

is against the Swede, however. Defender Steve Howey was quick to defend his colleague. You can hear the crowd getting their point across that they're not quite happy with Andreas, and the boys feel a little bit sorry for him because sometimes he might lack a little bit

"But you watch him when he give Steve Guppy just 20 minplays for Sweden and he's a toutes of first-team action before tally different player. I think all selling him on to Port Vale. he needs is maybe a good run Defensive duties and a in the team and a couple of dearth of possession meant goals and people will see the Guppy did not bear many crossfloweth with dread every time best of him. I think he knows the es on his return to Tyneside. he gets the ball. They even fans are expressing their dis- Leicester, in fact, only fashioned

appointment at times, but he one chance of note and Emile digs in and works his socks off." Heskey fluffed it, dragging his It is just as well for Newshot across the face of Shay castle that Shearer survived a Given's goal and wide when crunching challenge from Matt Frank Sinclair put him clear on the half hour.

Newcastle were not much better, though Stephen Glass had a smashing enough game to warrant the match-winning reward of his side-footed goal from the left edge of the Leicester penalty area 20 minutes into the second half. The young Scot is not so

much a winger as a midfielder with a sense of forward direction. This Saturday he will renew his acquaintance with David Batty, who, according to the Talk of the Toon, passed his recent medical sideways.

Goal: Glass (65) 1-0.

Nemcastle United (4-4-2): Given; Charvet, Dabizas, Howey, Barton: Georgiadis, Lee, Speed, Glass, Anderson, Kestbala (Sheare, 55). Sebastitutes not used: Harmann. Hughes, Solano, Harper (gk).

Lelcaster City (4-4-2): Reber: Sinciair (Kaamark, 62), Elliotz, Taggart, Ullathorne: Impcy, Lennon, Izzet (Sangart, Ullathorne: Impcy, Lennon, Ezet (Sangart, 48), Goppy: Cottee (Fencon, 66), Hesicey Subatitutes not used: Zagoraks, Arphexad (gk).

Refuren: I Winter (Inglety Barwick)
Bookdagt Lelecster: Elliott.

Man of the matcht. Glass.

TOWARDS SIX o'clock on Sat- By PETER CONCHIE urday afternoon weary shoppers carrying bags and boxes trudged past The Dell along Hill Lane, the road which rises

This festive ritual was mirrored by the town's football team who themselves climbed a mountain of sorts to deliver a pre-Christmas gift to their deserving fans with a win over Wimbledon.

gently out of Southampton city

It took Southampton off the bottom of the table and gives them renewed hope for a season which they appeared to be on the point of abandoning as a bad job. It was hard to watch Wim-

bledon's tame performance and not conclude that they had underestimated Southampton. Well, we're just human aren't we, not machines," Joe Kinnear remarked. "We don't want to take anything away from Southampton. We came here 16 points ahead of them but didn't play like a team 16 points ahead

Doubtless they were also suffering from a shortage of adrenalin after Sunday's heroic exploits; against Liverpool the Wimbledon players had stormed their opponents' defence like a band of anarchic revolutionaries. In contrast, on Saturday they formed a loose collective with neither direction nor conviction.

From the kick-off Southampton played in a direct and purposeful fashion with the 20-year-old James Beattie, signed from Blackburn for £1m. in threatening form.

Within five minutes the home side would have been ahead were it not for fine goalkeeping from Neil Sullivan. Matthew Le Tissier's cross was headed down by the youngster and followed up by the Moroccan Hassan Kachloul and then Beattie again.

After almost a dozen min-

utes of Southampton pressure, goal-kick from which the Nor- and substitute Ceri Hughes, wegian rounded Sullivan and defender Chris Perry before fin-

ishing well from a narrow Beattie then attempted a duplicate finish from Le Tissier's ball but struck the post from a slightly wider position. Importantly the home side

kept their heads when they had nosed in front. That they were allowed to was due in part to Wimbledon, who gave an uncharacteristically passive display and also thanks to solid performances from England internationals Le Tissier and Cariton Palmer.

Returning from suspension, Palmer's workhorse consistency settled his young teammates' nerves as he ferried the ball from defence to attack along the right side of midfield. Simple stuff, perhaps, but it was exactly what Southampton needed and underpinned their game throughout.

In four second-half minutes Egil Ostenstad opened the the game was won. Kachloul, Egil Ustenstau opened the scoring, Beattie flicking on a left unmarked between Perry glanced a diving header past Sullivan from Le Tissier's Beattie then headed onto

the post and Kachloul back-

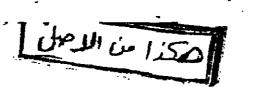
heeled across to Ostenstad who thumped in his second goal of the afternoon. "In the Premiership any body can beat anybody." Dave Jones remarked afterwards. Chelsea, who pay a visit to the south coast on Boxing Day, will

be the next team to test this

hypothesis after a strange and

glorious weekend in the Premiership.

2-0; Osienstad (19) 3-0; Gayle (76) 3-1
Southamptons (4-4-2) Jones, Hiley, Monk,
Lundekam, Bridge; Kachloui, Palmer, Hughes, Le Tissier (Basham, 78), Osienstad, Beatrie Substitutes not used: Warner, Williams,
Paul, Srensgaard (gk),
Wilmbledoor, Hatcher; Earle, M. Hughes,
Ardley (Cort, 78), Roberts (C Hughes, 8-t):
Gayle, Bolou (Rennedy, 83) Substitutes not
used: Nimble, Balcke (gk),
Referere: M. Reed (Birmingham),
Bookings: Southampton: Kachloui, Winnbledoor, Perry, Thatcher.
Man of the match: Beattle,
Attendance: 14,354.



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WHINKERS THE FIR 5 SCORE 1

# Rio grand, but can the Hammers hold him?

COOL STRONG, good in the air, comfortable on the ball, just 20 years old; no wonder Rio Ferdinand is spoken of as a fixture in England's defence for the next decade, the natural suc-cessor to West Ham's supreme hero, Bobby Moore.

Moore spent most of his career at Upton Park, international achievement bolstering his preference for familiar surroundings at a time when there was no great profit in switching allegiance.

Times change. "Who knows," Harry Redknapp replied reflectively when recent speculation about Ferdinand's future was put to him\_ "What we're trying to do is make the sleep easier just knowing he's



KEN JONES

progress that will keep Rio and other young players who are coming through happy." Ferdinand's performances

may be doing wonders for Redknapp's peace of mind - "I

manager must live with the possibility of losing him. "The way things are in football now it is difficult to keep a player when he can double, even treble his wages by going to a club that has a good chance of winning the championship."

If common sense prevails, Redknapp lives in hope that an extension of the improvement sustained since the relegation worries of two seasons ago will endear Ferdinand to the club he has grown up with. Now sixth in the Premiership after a seventh place finish last term, their realistic target is a crack at European competition. At the risk of going over-

board about a player who still that could hinder Michael Owen's progress - Ferdinand looks made for it.

The most glowing tribute comes from his French teammate Marc Keller who was brought up with Marcel Desailly and Lilian Thurman of his country's World Cup winning team. "Marc says that Rio will be in a different class to both of them," Redknapp

More than any other factor, Ferdinand's assurance under pressure enables Redknapp to risk the perils of momentum that allows the opposition room

Saturday's 2-1 defeat of Everton clearly emphasised West Ham's ability to break. Everton were not so much transformed in the second half as realising the possibilities arising from the Hammer's

eagerness to get forward. It became end to end stuff. We were running past each other in midfield," Redknapp

Behind in the 19th minute when Keller's attempted centre found their net after looping over Thomas Myrhe and striking the far post, Everton drew level when Danny Cadamarteri forced home a low centre from the substitute

Everton, however, were unable to consolidate, their goal falling again almost immediately when Trevor Sinclair launched himself at Keller's cross to head the winner.

Not that the game's fluctuations were over. Chances came at both ends and on another day Ian Wright, who foolishly got himself a mention in the referee's report for booting the ball out of play, might have

been on a hat trick. A battle of wills in midfield between Eyal Berkovic and his shadow, Olivier Dacourt, briefly went the Everton man's way when he began to spring forward, but it swung again in an exciting finale.

when he is left without frontal protection - shades of the best defender ever to wear England's colours - Ferdinand dealt calmly with crises that arose from Cadamarteri's

eager surges. Even so, West Ham almost paid for their profligate finish-ing when conceding a free-kick from 20 yards in the last

Decourt struck it well but Shaka Hislop, adding to the good impression he has made since arriving on a free transfer from Newcastle, turned the ball for a corner.

Walter Smith offered no excuses for a defeat that ended

Not in the least troubled Everton's mini revival. "We didn't perform in the first half and after getting back into the game we threw it away with

bad defending," he said. Honours in that department went to the player whose ability causes Redknapp to drool.

ity causes Redkmapp to drool.

"Frightening." he said.

Goals: Keller (19) 1-0; Cadamarteri (71)
1-1; Sinclair (75) 2-1.

West Ham (3-5-2); Hislop: Pearce, Ferdinand, Dicks: Sinclair, Lomas, Berkovk, Lampard, Keller: Hartson, Wright, Substitutes not used Forrest (gr). Breacher, Potts. Omoyinmi, Lazarids.

Euerton (3-5-2); Myrhe: Bilk. Materazzi, Unsworth: Ward (Collins, 75). Grant (Barmby, 64), Dacourt, Hutchison, Cleland: Cadamater. Madar (Branch, 64). Substitutes not used: Simonsen (gk).

# Boro expose United plan to dominate

THE TITANIC was a real life disaster of recent memory, rather than a film, the last time Middlesbrough succeeded at Old Trafford. Their 3-0 victory in January 1930 came in a month of cataclysmic proportions for Manchester United, who also lost at home to Swindon Town of the Third Division South in the FA Cup.

No one expects a spell of nilar upsets, or do we? On a day of reunions, one was notable for its absence: Manchester United's increasingly distant touch with defensive solidarity. Much more of this and ambitions, at home and abroad, will come to nothing.

Twenty-one goals have been conceded in their last 10 matches and, but for their qualification for the knockout phase of the European Cup, the last for weeks would have been no-He only for unremitting mediocrity. The entertainment that are problem. They have won only once now since No-

Forget the rousing finale and treat the scoreline as an imposter because, for an hour. supposedly the best team in England were overwhelmingly outplayed. Middlesbrough were splendid, United simply

Nowhere was the contrast more exposed than in the home penalty area, where Hamilton Ricard and Brian D ane reduced Gary Neville and Ronny Johnsen to rubble. "Individual errors," was Jim Ryan's succinct assessment, before adding enigmatically: "It is a worry. We will have to address it again."

The fact that Ryan, the reserve team coach, was addressing the media was one symptom of the mitigating cirraced in defence of the By GUY HODGSON

Middlesbrough

defence. Jaap Stam was missing with an ankle injury but, more importantly, Alex Ferguson was absent because of a family bereavement.

You can only imagine the volcanic activity on the touchline if the United manager had been present as Middlesbrough went 3-0 up with goals from Ricard, Dean Gordon and Deane. But it was his selection that performed so badly, so perhaps little would have changed. Just the language in the dressing-room.

It was not hard to find para-Bryan Robson and Viv Anderson were directing operations is glorious, it is just the results for nine seasons, was magnificent in the Middlesbrough de-

"I think he should still be playing for England," Robson said of Pallister and, while bar some might raise eyebrows at could certainly be enrolled into the nation's diplomatic service, given his comments about United's wretched defending.

"They've had a few injuries," he said, "they've never really had a settled back four, and that always causes problems. Steve [Bruce] and myself found out we were all over the place when we weren't playing regularly. If you can't get a settled partnership, it's difficult. Obviously they want to get their two best players at the back and have a partnership which will last as long as possible."

On the assumption there was no defence, Ryan abandoned it altogether in a deathor-glory charge at the finish

121 LOCKY WINKERS

and it almost yielded a point. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer came on for Phil Neville and, more contentiously, Paul Scholes replaced David Beckham.

The England midfielder had redeemed an undistinguished performance that culminated in a booking after an ugly lunge at Ricard with a cross that led to Nicky Butt's goal.

And he followed that up with a similar arc of precision that Ryan Giggs ought to have headed in. But Ryan was fearful that the short fuse was burning, and, when he looked for a way to introduce Scholes. Beckham was an obvious

The change almost had the required effect, too, because Scdoxes. Former United players holes made the score 3-2 after 70 minutes and was to the fore in the mayhem that caused from the visiting bench while Mark Schwarzer to clear Gary Pallister, who was a huge, mobile obstacle at Old Trafford minutes remaining.

The United striker's shot was partially blocked by the Boro goalkeeper, but was still heading for goal when Steve Vickers cleared it over his own

Boro survived and their supthat, the giant centre-back porters could conclude the match by singing "We're going to win the League". They will not, their squad is too shallow, but on this evidence neither will United, whose last clean sheet was on November 8.

Urgent action is required. ter United (4-4-2): Schmeichel:

Manchester United (4-4-2): Schmeichei; P. Neville (Solskjær, 78), Johnsen, G. Neville, Irwin; Beckham (Scholes, 63). Keane, Butt. Giggs; Sheringham, Cole. Sobstitutes not used: Blomqvist. Brown, Van der Gouw (gk). Middlesbrough (3-5-2): Schwarzer; Cooper, Vickers, Pallister; Fesza, Mustoe (Moore, 71), Maddison (Beck, 82). Townsend, Gordon: Deane, Ricard, Sub-Roberts (gk). Referee: G Willard (Worthing). Bookings: Manchester Utd: Beckham; Middlesbrough: Festa.

madiesbrough: Festa. Man of the match

Gary Pallister gives Teddy Sheringham a blast from the past



# Forest's currency devalued

POOR FOREST They fight By JON CULLEY against the current, but in time the tide will surely sweep them away. The Nationwide League can dust off the welcome mat: Forest are on their way back.

They gave a gutsy performance on Saturday but in the end fortune did not look kindly on them. Two goals up at halftime, they allowed Blackburn back early in the second half, and just when they thought a 14match run without victory was over, cracked again three minutes into stoppage time.

Thanks to Southampton's success, Forest are bottom of the table for Christmas, a position from which teams rarely recover. Worse still, they have no money for the January sales.

Ultimately, that is what it comes down to: spending power, an area in which Blackburn are enviably placed. Last week, their owner, Jack Walker, sanctioned the £2.35m pur-Newcastle and, it is reported, ers in midfield all put in their authorised the club's new man-maximum. At the back, Jesper in his attempt to prise Ashley paid £300,000 to Halmstad of Ward from Barnsley. It makes a stark contrast with the Forest manager, Dave Bassett, who knows it is pointless even to look on the same shelf.

who saw their future sold to the City two years ago, it is all a But Blackburn, tentative at first, painful let-down. When the consortium financed by Nigel Wray and Irving Scholar won control, turning the old committee-run club with its £1 shareholders into a go-ahead plc, those supporters envisaged prosperity, not the poor house.

But Wray and company say their investment is spent. They have put in £18m, of which £6m-£7m amounts to Bassett's net transfer deficit. A chunk went to pay off inherited debts, which puts Forest on a sound financial footing but does nothing in the currency that supporters regard as crucial - League points.

At the club's annual meeting last month, Wray, investor and Chris Gleave property developer, showed he

**Nottingham Forest** Blackburn Rovers

will not draw on his large personal fortune to save Forest from the drop. And the bank, he says, is equally unwilling.

It is not something Walker would tell an agm. But this is the trouble with football clubs run by a plc, especially one involving men in the City. Walker loves Blackburn. What does Wray feel for Forest?

They scrapped as Bassett's sides can on Saturday. But that alone will not be enough. They coped without Pierre van Hooijdonk, out with a sore calf. but could not withstand relentless Blackburn pressure through much of the second half.

That apart, you could fault them for nothing. Neil Shipperley and Dougie Freedman fought for every ball, Steve chase of Keith Gillespie from Stone was tireless and the othager, Brian Kidd, to go to £5m Mattson, for whom Bassett Sweden, caught the mood with a commanding display.

Forest went ahead from a contentious penalty, and increased the lead through Freed-For the Forest supporters man's seventh goal of the season, created by Shipperley. inevitably came back, although Forest were unlucky, having been within touching distance of their first Premiership win since 29 August.

One more match without a win and Forest will equal a club record. Next up: Manchester

United, away.
Goals: Chettle (pen 22) 1-0; Freedman (30) 2-0; Blake (49) 2-1; Blake (90) 2-2
Noctingham Forest (4-4-2). Beasant: Hjelde. Mattsson, Chettle. Rogers. (Armstrong, 58); Stone, Johnson, Gemmill, Bart-Williams; Shipperley (Harewood, 82). Freedman Substitutions not used: Crosslev (sk), Bonalsh, Darcheville.

Preedman Substituties not used: Crossley (gk.), Bonalat, Darchaville Blackburn Rovers: (4-4-2); Plan: Kenna, Henchoz, Daily, Davidson: Gillespie (Johnson, 78), Sherwood, McNinlay, Wilcor (Duff. 89); Sutton, Blake Substitutes not used: Davies, Peacock, Fettis (gk.), Referens: 5 Lodge (Barnsley). Bookings: Forest: Beasant, Bart-Williams; Blackburn: McKinlay, Henchoz, Sutton, Gillespie.

# EasuPlau

Game Results 19/12/98. This Saturday there were 5 score draws:

COVENTRY	v	DERBY
NOTT'M F.	٧	BLACKBUR
CRYSTAL P.		QPR
HESTERFIELD	٧	WIGAN
DEADONO	.,	OLDHAM

Score draws (0): NONE.

THIS WEEK EACH SCOOP OVER £1,500

\*Matchmaker Adjudicated Results for postponed matches Home was (0): PONE Away wins (0): NONE.

121 LUCKY WINNERS THIS WEEK **PAYOUTS FOR 5 SCORE BRAWS** 

You can now play until 4.30pm every Saturday.

AMPOINT TO EACH WIREER RO. OF Righters CATEGORY 5 Score draws Value of tickets extered this week: £488,461.

38% of sales contributed to prizes. This week's contribution to good causes £107,000.

PERY WEEK IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME.

To claim your prize, follow instructions on the back of your ticket. You must be 15 or over to play or claim a prize. In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in the central computer system shall prevail.

### THIS WEEK'S MAJOR FIXTURES

TODAY FOOTBALL: See panel, page 25 RACING (National Hunt unless stat-ed): Keiso (First race 12.55); LINGFIELD (All Weather Flat) (1.10).

tch: Ricard.

TOMORROW POOTBALL (7.45 unless stated): Auto Winnelscream Shield Northern Section first round: Notts County v Lui Cty. End-sleigh Brokers Trophy second round: Famborough v Rushden & Diamonds. RUGBY UNION: Hart Glimore North Midlands Championahip: Shropshire v Greater Birmingham (7.30) (at Harper Adams College), EOUESTRIANISM: Olympia Interna-tional Championships (Kensington, Lon-

RACING: Ludlow (12,45); SOUTHWELL (All Weather Flat) (1.0). WEDNESDAY

RUGBY UNION: Cheltenham and Gloucester Cap first round second leg: Ornell v Sale (7.15). BOXING DAY

BOXING DAY

FOOTBALL (3.0 umless stated): FA
Carling Premiership: Arsenai v West
Ham (12.0): Blackburn v Aston Villa
(6.0): Coventry v fottenham: Everton v
Derby: Manchester Utd v Nottingham Forest; Middleshrough v Liverpool; Newcastle
v Leeds: Sheffield Wednesday v Leicester; Southampton v Chelsea (12.0): Winbledon v Chariton (12.0). Nationwide
Football League First Division: Birmingham v Sheffield Utd: Bolton v Bradford City (1.0): Crewe v Bury:
Huddersfield v Grimsby: Ipswich v
Portsmouth: Oxford Utd v Crystal Palace;
Queen's Park Rangers v Norwich (12.0):
Stockport v Barnsley (1.0): Swindon v
Wolves; Tranmere v Sunderland; Wardrod v
Bristol City (12.0): West Bromwich v
Port Vale (1.0): Second Division: Blackpool v Wigan (1.0); Bristol Rovers v
Gillingham; Chesterfield v Oldham: Fulham v Colchester (12.0): Lincoln City v

Macciesfield: Luttor v Reading (12.0): Millwall v Bournemouth (12.0): Notrs County v Northampton; Stoke v Preston;
Walsall v Wycombe: Whecham v Manchester City (12.0); York v Burnley, Third
Division: Barnet v Plymouth Argyle
(1.30); Brighton v Brentford (12.0);
Cambridge Utd v Rotherham; Cardiff v
Shrewsbury (12.0); Exeter v Torquay
(11.0); Halifaa v Darlington (2.0); Hull v
Crester, Leyton Orient v Swansea (1.30);
Mansfield v Scarborough; Rochdale v
Cardisle: Scunthorpe v Hartlepool;
Southend v Peterborough (1.0); Foetball
Conference: Doncaster v Leek; Farnborough v Hayes; Forest Green v Yeovil;
Kettering v Hedneshord; Kidderminster v
Hereford (12.30); Kingstonian v Woking
(12.0); Northwich v Morecambe; Southport v Barrow; Stevenage v Rushden & (12.0); Kingstonian v Woking (12.0); Northwich v Morecambe; Southport v Barrow; Stevenage v Rushden & Diamonds; Telford v Cheltenham; Welling v Dover (12.0). Scottish Premier League: Dunfermiine v Aberden; Kümamock v Hearts; Motherwell v Dundee Urd; Rangers v St Johnstone. Scottish

## **TODAY'S** NUMBER

The number of Chinese athletes who failed drugs tests at the Asian Games, which finished in Bangkok yesterday. They had 11 failures at the last Games in Hiroshima in 1994.

reaters one v Casterora (11.30); Lees v Halifax (11.30).

RUGBY UNION (3.0 unless stated): Affled Dumbar Premiership One: Lelcester v Bedford; Richmond v London Irish. Jemson National Leagus One: Birmingham/Solihuli v Nottingham (2.30); Harrogate v Wharfedale (2.15); Newbury v Lydney; Otley v Morley (2.15); Rossiyn Park v Camberley (2.30). Theo Morth (2.30): Aspatria v Kendal; Stourbridge v Whitchurch. Theo South (2.30): Clifton v Bridgwater; Plymouth v Redruth. Wielsh National Leagus Premier Dhriston (2.30): Caerphilly v Newport; Ebbw Vale v Aberawor: Neath v Lianelli; Pontypridd v Bridgend. First Dhriston (2.30): Abertillery v Newbridge: Blackwood v UWK: Dumant v Kondu: Llandovery v Cross Keys: Pontypool v Bonymaer; Rumney v South Wales Police: Tredegar v Merthyr, Treorchy v Maesteg. Anglo-Weish Priendities: Northampton v Cardiff; Swanses v Bath (2.30). Bank of Scotland Border League (2.0): Gala v Meirose; Hawick v Peebles: Jed-Forest v Keiso.
RMCING: Kempton (12.40); Ayr (12.55): Hereford (12.55): Hereford (12.55): Hereford (12.55): RACING Kempton (12.40); Ayr (12.55); Hereford (12.25); Huntingdon (1.0); Market Rasen (12.30); Newton Abbot (1.20); Sedgefield (1.0); Wetherby (12.45); Wincanton (1.0); Wolverhamp-ton (All Weather Flat) (1.30).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL: Scottish Premier League: Dundee v Celdc (6.05). Scottish Foot-bell League Second Division: East Fife v Inverness Caledonian Thistle (3.0); Queen of the South v Livingston (3.0). RUGBY UNION: Jewson National League Two South: Barking v Tabard

## **TOMORROW**

WHO SAID 'IF I HAD A SWORD I'D CUT OFF HIS HEAD'? FIND OUT IN THE SPORTS QUOTES OF THE YEAR



publication of West Ham United Football Club. With the new Xmas issue including exclusive interviews with JOHN HARTSON, MARC KELLER and FRANK LAMPARD, plus a behind-the-scenes look at IAN WRIGHT'S TV show, it's essential reading for all fans. Pick up your copy for just £2.50 from in and around the ground and at WHIGHTY all good newsagents.

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TIPSTER EDMONDSON DOES IT AGAIN P23 • THE WORLD CUP DISCARDS P20

Football: The 17th dismissal since Wenger took charge mars Gunners' advance into title contention

# Arsenal's assault on summit

BY STEVE TONGUE

Arsenal Leeds United

ARSENAL yesterday offered an alternative view to their own manager's recent pessimistic prognostications by defeating the Premiership's form team and joining them in the top six.

A year to the week after his charges began an unbeaten run from a less promising position than their current one, which lasted four months and earned them the championship, Arsène Wenger has been casting doubts on their chances of finishing in the top three to earn another shot at the Champions' League. As David O'Leary, unlucky to lose by two goals on his return to Highbury for the first time as a fully fledged manager, put it: "Perhaps he's superstitious and has to say the same thing every year. He's very good with words.

Whether or not Wenger and his fellow countrymen know the word kidology, they are learning to practise it. The knack of remaining on the right side of English referees is proving more elusive; yesterday Gilles Grimandi became the fifth Arsenal player sent off this season - and the 17th since Wenger took over two years ago - when he pushed his head into Alan Smith's face only 15 minutes after coming on as a substitute.

By that time, just before the finish, Arsenal were in control for the first time. Even at 2-0 early in the second half, they looked vulnerable to Lee Bowyer's vigorous industry and the fierce shooting of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, who quickly halved the deficit. Only when Dennis Bergkamp, having scored the first goal, had contributed his second assist of the game by sending the outstanding Emmanuel Petit through were the champions in

the clear. They have now moved within four points of the joint leaders, Aston Villa, who play at Chariton tonight. Arsenal also visit The Vallev next week after entertaining West Ham, and a successful Christmas in the capital would set

them up for a happy new year. "It's more important at the moment that we concentrate on the way we play before speaking of the title," Wenger said. "We have to be realistic. After a few games, we'll see where we

He admitted to being con- seconds and the young Leeds more associated with Arsenal,



Dennis Bergkamp scores Arsenal's first goal in their defeat of Leeds United at Highbury yesterday. The two teams are now equal on points

Bowyer and David Hopkin were man-marking Petit and Patrick Vieira in the centre of midfield. describing Bowyer as "a specialist at upsetting people". Although no player on the pitch was old enough to remember the physical battles between the seemed to be some keen to re-

enact them: Vieira had downed

cerned early on at the way defender Jonathan Woodgate stepping out in a straight line was booked before two minutes

had been played. changed his system to com- side-footed feebly wide at the pensate for the loss of Lucas Radebe and David Batty. "I'd love to have come nere with the two clubs 30 years agc, there full monty, a full team," he said. Those who were chosen sometimes seemed to be doing their Hasselbaink painfully within 20 own choreography of a move

with arms raised. Woodgate was used as one of three goals, starting in the 28th three centre-halves as O'Leary minute. David Hopkin had just other end when Petit found Nicolas Anelka for a flicked header. Anelka was probably iust offside, but the flag, unlike the defenders' arms, stayed down and Bergkamp ran on to beat Nigel Martyn.

Cleverly drifting slightly

Bergkamp went on to give his It let them down for two of the most influential performance side-footed straight at Martyn for a while. Eight minutes into the second half he fed Vieira, before Nelson Vivas set up a claswho slid past Woodgate and scored his first goal of the sea-

> son, low in the corner. Leeds deserved better and met by Petit's fine finish, remi-Hasselbaink thundered them back into contention as Harry the World Cup final. Kewell rolled back an inviting pass following another thrust by Bowyer But as the game became O'Leary of his former club. His

deeper to elude the markers, even more open, Arsenal finished new one may be slightly further the stronger Marc Overmars away, but if they keep improving, not by much. and Anelka pulled a shot wide Arsenal (4-4-2), Manninger, Dison, Bould, Ke-ovin, Wiss: Ljungberg (Grimandi, 72), Vierra, Petir. Overmars (Wren. 87): Bergsamp, Anel-ka, Sabsoloutes not condit: Boo Morte, Mendez. sic counter-attack by winning the ball and feeding it to Bergkamp

hal sensonanee and essert and worte, Mendez, Lusic (gi, ). Lusick United (3-5-21: Martyn: Haaland, Mole-naar (Wetheral, 44). Woodgate: Halle, Bowyer. Hoppin: Grannile (Smith, 80). Harte: Kewell. Hassetbaini, Subsistantee upt used: Sharpe, Wijnhard, Robinson (gi,). Referee: P Durkin (Pordand). on the left. A delicious pass was niscent of his coup de grâce in Sending-off: Arsenal Grimandi. Booked Arsenal: Viera Bergiamo Leads: Woodgate Horsio Harra

Ben Duffy

"They'll be there at the finish, don't worry about that," said

# acted in of FA'

BY DAVID ANDERSON

GRAHAM KELLY, the former Football Association chief executive, stands by his decision to give the FA of Wales the 23.2m grant which cost him his job. Kelly insists he acted in the best interests of the FA and the campaign to stage the 2006

World Cup. He admits that one reason for helping the FAW was to secure their support for the bid of the FA chairman, Keith Wiseman, to be Britain's Fifa vicepresident, but claimed it was not a bribe.

"I went into it with very good intentions to seek to strengthen England's position in world football generally and in connection with the World Cup campaign," he told BBC Radio Five Live

Wiseman, himself in peril after the FA's executive committee passed a vote of no confidence in him for his part in the affair, has claimed that leading figures in the game wanted Kelly out.

Several people had been after Graham for some time," he alleged. "I'm not going to name names but various individuals at the top of the professional game wanted someone in place prepared to act as they wanted."

In spite of the vote of no confidence, Wiseman has refused to go and has instead vowed to fight to clear his name. His fate will be decided by the full FA Council when it meets on 4 January.

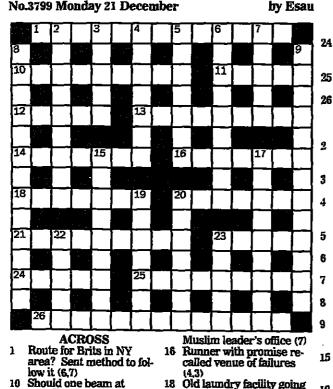
"As for myself I have done nothing wrong," Wiseman said. "I was acting in the FA's best interests and following accepted business practice and I want to clear my name of any hint of im propriety.

"The process followed to remove me was unconstitutional. The full FA council is the only body that has the right to remove the chairman. I intend to out the matter entirely in their hands," he added.

Wiseman admitted that recent events had been a huge strain. "The past few days have been horrendous for my we and family," he said. and family," he said.

"I haven't been able to live in my own house and have been staying with friends. I've never had the remotest professional problem of any kind and to have that reputation put at risk by football issues is difficult to cope with."

## THE MONDAY CROSSWORD



sanity (5)
12 Sally's fighting to keep hold of love (5)

13 Subject to excessive demands, that's clear-cut (9) 14 One graduate pai seen in

18 Old laundry facility going west - however, Henry no-ticed (7) speeding motorists? (5.4)

11 Chap going by main road doing U-turn form of in
speeding motorists? (5.4)

west - however, Henry no-ticed (7)

Become breathless, taking in "mature" kind of show! (7)

21 I may mend comfy chairs for a convalescent (9) (among others) said to be

rhythm (5) What pilot may do, about to be trapped by European MiG? (5) 25 Ah! Topical cook suggesting thin sausage (9)
26 Route barred, for pedestrians' safety (5.8)

> Road subject to favourable result of test Living in the distant past,

like some peers? (5) A certain Carol's main man given spiritual guid-ance (7) What reporter may claim to have profound effect (7) Thwart poor actors attempting to shed years (9)

Take over part of Afghanistan next? (5) Parking illegally? That's fine by me! (7,6) Rested certain acts, to make others behave? (3.4.3.3)What sets off player bring-

ing in one type of rev-19 Way to discipline Aussie drivers in convoy (4.5) Cockney's skint, influ-

enced by a certain ele-ment? (7) Left most of religious artwork in a colonnade (7) 22 Team working on English railway interchange (5) 23 They do global tours (5)

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# Atherton at the double as Hick forces the pace

ONLY THREE hours' play were possible on the second day in Hobart as rain and drizzle swept in off the southern ocean. Yet if one day is enough to know everything, a theory once held by Fyodor Dostoevsky, a fraction is certainly enough to confirm long-held beliefs about Michael Atherton and Graeme Hick, who scored double and

single centuries respectively. The first thing that must be said is that the strike power of could not immediately be said an Australian XI who were missing three front-line bowlers was not heavy-duty. But if Hick merely reinforced the view that he is a flat-track bully by marmalising the back-up bowlers to from the occasion as the acting all parts of the ground and beyoud, the fact that Atherton could not change gear in his chanceless and unbeaten 210 was equally corroborative.

In contrast to Hick, who tends to dominate a substandard attack totally, Atherton has not the means to ride roughshod over inferior bowling. A batsman with a mid-size array of shots, Atherton's power comes not from his weight of stroke, which relies on timing anyway, but from his mental strength.

Total concentration is all he knows and it is the main reason why there is such a disparity between his performances for England and Lancashire. Unlike some, he cannot simply

BY DEREK PRINGLE

in Hobart

England 469-6 dec Australian XI 30-0

drop a level and still compete favourably, which is why his 483minute innings here, sans Paul Reiffel and co, still had a decent market value, something that of Hick's run-a-bali 125.

Some similarities can be drawn, however, and both needed runs, though whether Hick can draw as much succour captain will soon be tested on Boxing Day at the MCG.

Atherton, whose first double century this was, relishes his reputation for being perverse and the milestone came with an ungainly hack back over the bowler's head. Prior to that, and apart from some delightful cover-driven fours off Brendon

Bowling: hasprowicz 18 3-2-67-0 Resistal 1,3-6-4-0; Julian 32-6-98-1, Blewett

career-best score of 199, made against Durham at Gateshead in 1992. In fact, in the time it took him to go from 194 to 198, Hick advanced his own score from 42

to 96 in a flurry of big hitting. There was geographic interest in his feat, too, and there cannot be many grounds further apart than Gateshead and the Bellerive Oval in Hobart, on which to register your two highest first-class scores. It was a distance Hick clearly tried to cover as he launched Michael Bevan's left-arm wrist spin for

huge successive sixes. Dropped at midwicket by Stuart Law when he was 91, the brutality of Hick's second fifty. which took 28 balls, was at odds with the first, which was cautious and subdued and took 93. Perhaps Hick was trying to prove a point by showing Atherton he can whack it when he wants to: remember it was Atherton who declared on Hick

HOBART SCOREBOARD

24-2-73-1. Law 21-4-84-1: Bevan 23 1-3-94-3. Elliott 5-0-34-0. Lehmann Did not bat: 0 G Cork, A J Tudor, A R C

Somfing: Tudor 6-3-12-0: Fraser 3-2-16-0

Julian, he had slowed to a crawl in Sydney four years ago, when as he approached his previous the batsman was on 98.

At one stage, Hick was treating the bowling as he might in a benefit match, which was ironic considering that one of the main reasons for the Aussie selectors picking a strong side was to make a point about the relative weakness of county opposition encountered when

other countries tour England. But if many were quiet! smug at the way Australia's at tempt to humiliate England further backfired, a glimpse of why they generally lord it over us came from one of the many substitute fielders, Nathan Webb. Just 17, he fielded superbly, taking two catches in the deep including the wicket of Hick, whose attempt at another six ended when he held a dif-

ficult, swirling catch at long-off. If it is churlish to suggest that the equivalent ability does not exist in England, it would be hard to imagine a 17-year-old looking quite at home as Webb did. Ben Hollioake, four years older than him, certainly did not, the Surrey all-rounder recording his

second duck in four days. Coming in to replace Hick, Hollioake edged his first ball to the wicketkeeper, after Julian banged it in short. If there is a thought among the selections that he might possibly bat at seven in the next Test, it will surely have been shelved.

or ublashed by Independent Newspapers (UK) Limited. I Canada Squite, Canary Wharf, London E145DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print. St Albans Road, Watford Rack issues available from Historic Newspapers, 111988 840370. Monday 21 December (AM Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

COMMENT ARTS • LISTINGS • **TELEVISION** FEATURES •

Diana was trash, homosexuality is an illness, love's a fallacy: Quentin Crisp is approaching his naughty 90th birthday, but he's lost none of his sauce

# Old Spice

survive at all was an adventure. To reach old age was a miracle." So wrote Quentin Crisp in his autobiography 30 years ago, when he was not even an oldage pensioner. What exclamatory words are left to describe the fact that this Christmas Day Quentin Crisp will not only be 90 years old, but will open that night in a new one-man show on Broadway? Mind-boggling? Unnatural? Creepy? Or does it simply bear out his belief that there is no such thing as long-term bad luck?

Quentin Crisp was only 58 years old when I first met him in a West End cafe, but he came across even then as a figure of faded, cobwebby grandeur, already making jokes about being old, saying, "At the end of the run, you can overact outrageously". I remember he wore silver sandals with high heels, women's slacks and a great deal of make-up. His pale-blue dyed hair was piled up into those starili gly bouffant waves that innumerable feature writ-

were soon to struggle to describe. His face looked and imperious. In recent times, I have spotted in the ageing Baroness Thatcher some of Quentin Crisp's outrageous haughtiness. By the time I met him, Quentin Crisp had already

had an extraordinary existence. The precise details of his self-inflicted martyrdom slowly became apparent. Born the wettest of weaklings, he had been an impossible child and a monstrous show-off. Perpetually suicidal and ill-equipped for living, he was unemployable, unfit even to make tea - "I would have 

prostitute, but was no good at this either. Then, suddenly, he took several steps over the brink and became a self-evident homosexual, "a terrible painted figure prancing the streets", who was kicked, spat at and beaten up. "Nothing can describe the hatred and the terror and the trouble that I caused," he later told one of his many interviewers.

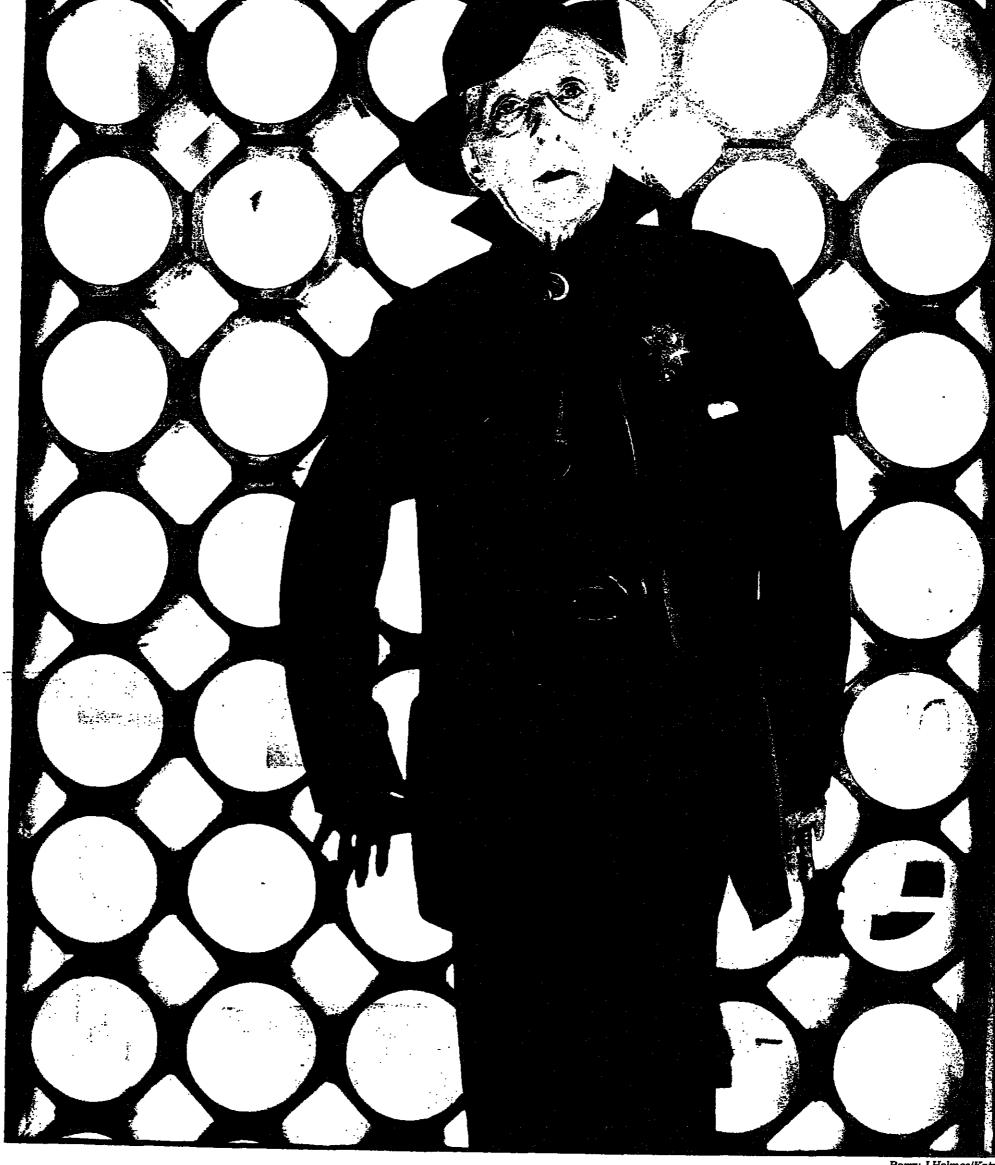
The bedsitter in Beaufort Street, Chelsea, where Quentin had lived since the summer of 1940, was a revelation. His joke about the dust not getting any worse after a few years has long since found its way into various dictionaries of quotations. The poet Philip O'Connor spoke of "that infernal kitchen" and Crisp himself boasted that his home was "a kind of curtain-raiser for The Rocky Horror Show". It was at he lived off a food substitute called Comar recharged his batteries and, in his own

words, was his "horrible self". Bare-footed and clad in a dressing gown shiny with grease, which barely covered his buttocks, he also welcomed all callers with great zest. "Rush in. sit down," he might say, then: "Flop about on the bed." Visitors might be offered "a cup of pale grey coffee" or "some old toast".

I found Quentin was happy to talk for hours there, elevating or demoting his circle of acquaintances to a sort of villagey gentility or obscurity by never using their first names. He talked about a certain Mr Flipcroft, a Miss Lumley "who can do no wrong", a Miss Miller "who has the nerve to teach art appreciation". Whenever I left, Quentin would run down the stairs like a 10-year-old, turn on the hall light and bid me: "Call again. Incessantly." These we scatch-phrases he used for everybody. Over the

if not incessantly, and watched as he became famous. His first step into the limelight came with the publication in 1968 of his autobiography, The Naked Civil Servant. This was widely praised and reviewed, going briefly into the bestseller list, but it did not bave any effect on his life, other than producing a regular stream of anonymous telephone calls - his number has always been listed - which he described

with some relish as "appointments with fear". When the film of his book was broadcast in December 1975, with John Hurt requiring five different wigs to play the title role, these calls became more urgent. Almost overnight, Quentin Crisp became a cult figure, "the mother superior of homosexuality" and much else besides. Taxi drivers who had once refused to carry him now asked for his autograph. Quentin took this all very calmly - "I expect to be forgotten soon," he told me. No such luck. In January 1978, Quentin Crisp opened in his oneman show at the Duke of York's Theatre in London, lecturing his packed audience about style with only a bentwood chair and a hatstand for company on



the Ambassador's Theatre. One person asked for their money back. Quentin paid up immediately. Anyway, he now had other plans. "I can't go on

appearing at the Ambassador's forever," he muttered, perhaps fearing a run of Mousetrap proportions. The previous autumn, he had not only been abroad for the first time in his life, he had been to New York, where The Naked Civil Servant had been shown on television. He now wanted to live there for ever - "In America, everyone is your friend". At the age of 72, he left England for good, acquiring the room on Manhattan's Lower East Side where

he has now lived for 17 long, dark years. I have seen little of him during this period, but have occasionally spoken to him on the telephone. which he still answers with the long drawn-out words, "Oh - yes?" instead of "Hello?"

In 1991, he wrote to me saying. "I am now so old that I spend half my time asleep", but this has actually been a time of great industry and expansion. Quentin Crisp has appeared frequently on television. He has done his one-man show across America. He has lectured on four cruise ships and appeared in cinema adverts for Calvin Klein perfume and Levi's jeans. He played Elizabeth the First in Sally Potter's film of Virginia Woolf's Orlando with

remarkable tenderness and restraint. 3rd Street and we arranged to meet. Somewhat dis-

stage. After great success, the show transferred to hatted Mr Crisp looked like a little old witch, I did not know what to expect. What do 89-year-old men look like? Would I find a stick insect?

In the event, it was his feet and legs that I saw first as he descended the stairs of his building to let me in. For a worrying moment I thought that Quentin Crisp, the great stylist, had graduated to the leisure-wear and trainers beloved by octogenarians across the western world. But, no - Quentin was properly dressed in grey flannels and a tailored grey worsted jacket that I later discovered had been given to him by the supermodel Lauren Hutton. He

### BY ANDREW BARROW

was smaller, portlier, but his great beehive of backcombed white hair was as impressive as ever.

His room knocks his old place in Beaufort Street into a cocked hat. It's smaller to start with and, instead of having windows looking on to a leafy London street, there is only the darkened well of the building to contemplate. It is more like a disused workshop than a bedroom, clogged with possessions, coated with grime. Bottles of make-up, fixative, medicine and, thank God, a bottle of champagne, hog the floor along with a discarded shirt.

Quentin Crisp once said of the dirt in his Lon-Last month, I telephoned him at his room on East don room: "It's just a question of keeping your nerve." To survive in his current abode must require concerted by a recent photograph in which the be-

cope with the horrified reactions of friends who do not understand his lifestyle. Three times the police have been called, and once he was dragged off to

hospital though there was nothing wrong with him. Indeed, as Quentin settled on the bed and I took the only chair, so close to him that our knees kept touching. I reflected that he looks extraordinarily well. He wears less make-up than in the past. He has the actor's ability to turn it on. His gestures are deft and unhesitant. His head twists attentively and his voice is as full-throated as ever.

And so are his views. He continues to hate Oscar Wilde and Visconti's films, especially Death in Venice. His recent statement that Princess Diana was "trash" and "got what she deserved" generated letters telling him he was "a bitter, lonely old queen".

Quentin's chilly relationship with the gay community is another thorny and long-standing issue. He looks upon homosexuality as an illness and homosexuals as an inferior breed. Some time ago, he upset a Chicago audience by saying that the "ob-session" with Aids was a "fad". In America, he says. he has angered gay people but been accepted by "real" people. "And anyway," he adds with some bemusement, "it's now been explained to me that I'm not a homosexual. I'm a trans-something."

Quentin Crisp has been described as "icily unsentimental". On stage and in private, he rarely says the word "love" without giving it a mocking twang. Most people, he claims, are in perpetual torment about their relationships. He isn't, For him the idea

of having a best friend or any kind of hierarchy of friendship has always been abhorrent. I have known Quentin Crisp for 32 years but I do not feel any closer to him, or less intimate, than when we first met. "Love of everybody" is one of his abiding aims. "If love means anything at all, it means extending your hand to the unlovable." he says, giving an eerie significance to the fact that his birthday falls on the same day as the founder of the Christian religion. I did not ask him about the link, but I had not been long in his Lower East Side room before he was quoting from Saint Teresa of Avila: "We must treat all people as at least better than ourselves." Crisp's own blueprint for happiness is never to envy the lot of other people.

On 25 December, Quentin Crisp steps on to the stage of the Intar theatre on 42nd Street and, for the following six weeks, will "cast about for something to make the audience squeak". He will tell them how to be happy. He will also, no doubt, talk about death. His own death. He has been talking about his death since I first met him. "When it all ends." he'd say, "I'll get into my coffin and I'll sleep." Suicide has always attracted him - "The last graceful flourish of someone whose style has been completely mastered" - but it might not provide the "significant death" he yearns for. Last month, he declared. "It would be nice to be murdered". Whatever one makes of this claim, it would provide another spooky connection with his fellow birthday boy.

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#### **Dealing with Iraq**

Sir: Your editorial (18 December) poses the question, "How else do we deal with this dictator?"

Hasn't history taught us that the very best way to undermine dictatorships is to build as many links as we can with such countries, not close them down as we have done with Iraq? This has helped keep Saddam in power.

The Berlin wall was not only to keep people in but ideas out. We need to repair the damage with Iraq, both physical but also psychological. Drop the sanctions and invade the country with our influence; win the people over with contact with the West on all levels; not with bombs.

Such contact would be assisted by free trade and open borders and would be the greatest threat that Saddam could face.

In the short term, allow the Arab nations, with appropriate assistance (that they should and can pay for), to contain Iraq. We have enough needs at home on which to use the resources expended on damaging Iraq. BOB GOODALL St Albans, Hertfordshire

Sir: Supporters of the air strikes on Iraq who demand that opponents spell out their "alternative" to bombing have missed the point of the whole debate.

First, it is not for the governments of the United States and Britain to decide the best way to "deal with" Saddam Hussein. These governments have not been elected global policemen by the peoples of the world. Their mandate for military action in the Middle East rests solely on imperial presumption.

Second, Iraq is not the only country with the capability of manufacturing weapons of mass destruction, nor is it the only country ruled by a repressive dictatorship, nor is it the only country currently in violation of UN resolutions. The very people who now tell us there is no alternative to bombing are the same ones who throw up their hands in impotence when confronted with violations of UN resolutions by Israel in regard to the Palestinians, by UNITA in Angola, and by Indonesia in East Timor.

Third, there is ample reason to believe that the "problem" which we are told we must deal with is in fact a contrived pretext for military action. Former chief UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter has been quoted as saying, "What Richard Butler did last week with the inspections was a set up. ... This was designed to generate a conflict that would justify a bombing." MIKE MARQUSEE London N1

Sir. Your report (12 December) about the way the sanctions on Iraq enable Saddam Hussein to maintain control over his people highlights one aspect of the adverse effects of the sanctions. More generally, sanctions, which have caused the death of between half a million and a million people according to informed sources, enable Saddam Hussein to portray the West as the enemies of the Iraqi people, strengthening his hold on the country. We believe that sanctions should be ended and the West should flood Iraq with food and medicines. As well as reducing the appalling suffering, this could reduce Saddam's grip on Iraq.

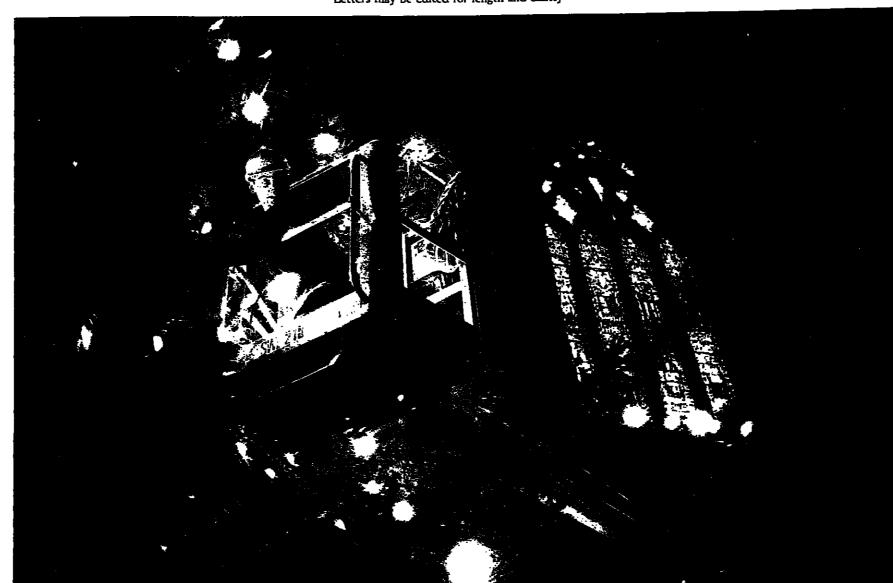
Most people recognise that it is never going to be possible to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction by technical means and inspection alone. Thus it is important to reduce the causes of conflict. Ending the sanctions would help to reduce the potential for hatred of the West by the Iraqis and other Arab and Muslim peoples. Whereas a massive military attack on Iraq could destabilise the Middle East, we believe a positive approach to the Iraqi people could help bring stability. MARTIN QUICK

Chair Architects and Engineers for Social Responsibility Stroud, Gloucestershire

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Dressing the Cathedral No 1: Peter Hotine threads 60m of cable through the 42-foot Christmas tree in Ely cathedral

Brian Harris

Sir: America is doing through the thin veil of the UN what it has done to Cuba and Vietnam over the last 30 years. If it cannot win a war in a conventional manner (because it never "broke" Iraq), it will economically suppress that country indefinitely.

If it wants to use weapons of mass destruction as an excuse, why doesn't it bomb Pakistan, India or China? Dr P CONNOLLY Halstead, Essex

Sir: The 1997 "Islamophobia Report" of the Runnymede Trust read in part: "At the time of the 1991 Gulf War, West Yorkshire police noted a 100-per-cent increase in racist attacks in Bradford, and a 58 per-cent increase in West

Yorkshire as a whole." The pattern has been repeated at every conflict since. It does not seem to matter to racists that Britons whose families originate in south Asia (or even Iraq) have no connection with the ruling clique in Iraq. In fact some of those attacked in Bradford were Hindus, and not Muslims. Already, three UK mosques have been attacked in the last two days.

We hope journalists, as well as extremists among British Muslims and elsewhere, will not inflame people of violence to attack Asians, especially Muslims, in this country. Dr RICHARD STONE Chair Runnymede Commission Rabbi ABRAHAM LEVY Maimonides Foundation KHAWAR QURESHI Imam Dr ABDULJALIL SAJID Calamus Foundation London W1

### TV religion

Sir. Recently I wrote to you about the complete lack of Christmas Day worship on BBC television (letter, 12 December). I seem to have touched a nerve, for the story has received considerable coverage in national newspapers and on radio and television. The only response I have had from the BBC so far has been a "with compliments" slip.

I am beginning to think that the cause of the malaise at the BBC is that its corporate thinking is dominated by fear. The superficial fear is about a "ratings war"; but there may be a deeper fear which its treatment of religion symbolises. Perhaps it no longer has the confidence to deal with religious concepts of death or eternity or mercy or human meaning. It seems bewildered not only about religious matters but also about its own corporate purpose.

The BBC is a very significant part of our national life and needs to discover what the potential and purpose of public service broadcasting should be in the new millennium. Preoccupation with ratings and marginalisation of religion are the signs that confidence is seriously lacking

When will the necessary public debate begin? CHRISTOPHER St ALBANS (The Right Rev Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans) St Albans, Hertfordshire

Sir: Having just returned from

a month's visit to Nigeria and

prosperous country has been

dictators, I believe it would be

having seen for myself the

tragic mess that that once

reduced to by its military

an act of wanton cruelty to

("Banker loses his battle to

long residency in Britain, a

business activities, for the

and to which he has

VINCENT F BUTLER

Sir: The omission of the

last 1,000 years seems

incredible ("Millennium

Edinburgh

stay", 15 December). After his

country be now sees as his own

contributed much through his

Court of Appeal to treat him as

if be were guilty of criminality

discovery of penicillin from the

**New Millennium Experience** 

Company's highlights of the

deport Ben James there

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith's apology for current BBC editorial policy as it affects the churches (Comment, 14 December) misses the point. The issue is not how to cater for paid-up parish members. They have accepted the physical inconvenience of live attendance at church. What is missing on Christmas Day, and what is reduced at many other times, is religion and related concerns as an ingredient in the cultural diet of people for whom belonging to Christian institutions is of doubtful relevance - but who like to retain a

vestigial sympathy and link. Incarnation - god as man, man as god - is a dramatic idea. A television service to mark the idea on the day which is su called Christmas should not be in question.

The point isn't "selling" Christianity, or pushing messages. Christianity in Britain is close to the core traditions of the people. But folk memory needs to be refreshed - and associated with

IN BRIEF

defined by a sandwich",

17 December). Alexander

development by Howard

Florev and Ernst Chain

antibiotic age in medicine

those organising the

a higher achievement.

KEVIN BROWN

London W2

which has saved countless

lives. It is a sad reflection on

millennium celebrations that

they should rate the sandwich

Trust Archivist and Curator

Sir: Dr Hillman asserts that

there is no substitute for a living

organism in the production of

Alexander Fleming Laboratory

Fleming's discovery and its

revolutionised medicine and

affected for the better the lives

of every one of us. It began the

various aspects of culture and thought in ways that television and radio can manage effectively and helpfully. It is a pity religion has been pushed into a ghetto by those in charge of the media. Christianity does not need yet more pulpits to preach to the converted. That is what "Christian" television and radio stations do. It is the general diet which needs appropriate religious ingredients to prevent it becoming even more impoverished.

Why do enormous numbers of non-Christian or vaguely Christian parents opt to send their children to "church" schools? What that means is ignored by the BBC. TOM SUTCLIFFE

### Software that is PC

Sir. The main thrust of Eva Pascoe's article about open source software (Network, 14 December) appears to be a sort of anti-Microsoft crusade. Proponents of

mono-clonal antibodies (letter, 18 December). In the UK, the mouse was the animal almost invariably used for this purpose. However, in a November 1997 statement, the government announced that the use of mice to produce mono-clonal antibodies would no longer be allowed unless exceptional justification could be provided. In vitro methods of production are to be used instead. CHRISTINE ORR British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection London N7

Sir: May I add to Donald Foreman's list of the achievements of the Duke of Cambridge (letter, 16 December)? He was so shocked by the playing of military bands that he founded the School of Army Music. CAROLYN BECKINGHAM Lewes, East Sussex

the Linux operating system (and for that matter Apple Mac users) seem to be almost fanatical in their devotion. There is a certain cachet in using a product which is nonmainstream. You become the new techno-warrior, and not some Redmond clone.

The main benefits touted by Ms Pascoe for using open source software appear to be that it is a Bill Gates-free desktop; that the "guys from Redmond" won't get their "bounty"; that Microsoft is operating a monopoly from which only cyber-heroes such as the comic-reading ex-hacker Jamie Zovinsky, and other "legends" can save us.

This all misses the point. People applications in heterogeneous environments buy products which are based on standards and will integrate well with their existing products; which will scale well and support a larger user base; which are reliable and for which there is a high level of skills available to provide support.

The main problem with Linux is just that people do modify it. There is no standard version. Developers need to produce different versions of their applications - one for Linux on a Sun, one for the PC

version and so on. There is nothing wrong with people developing code and distributing it to their friends. colleagues and like-minded folk on the Net and, in all likelihood, this will have a positive effect on the industry; but to state that all such software is inherently better than anything developed by the evil empire in Redmond is nonsense.

Even if open source software were technically better, which in the case of Linux is highly debatable, a product with wider acceptance is more important to corporate users. History is littered with products which were arguably better but never took off. Anyone got any Betamax movies I can borrow? ANDREW WARREN Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway

#### Teen mums at risk

Sir: Yasmin Alibhai-Brown talks a lot of sense on the subject of teenage mothers ("A new generation of mothers", 17 December). She is right that society's tendency to sexualise young people at an earlier age is one of the problems that underpin the increasing numbers of teenage parents. She is in my view right that some young women have children because they look at their futures and can't see any reason not to get pregnant – a double

negative, not a positive choice. If any group of young people is at risk of social exclusion, it is teen parents. It was because of this link that the Social Exclusion Unit was given this subject to consider. It is working closely with the Department of Health on health and social services issues. The problem is complex and cuts across the activities of many parts of Government - education and employment, and the whole package of support for teenage parents and their children. An approach that ignored these issues would have been rightly criticised as too narrow.

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THICKLE

The Law

Young women get pregnant early for many reasons. But it is possible to create a picture of the young woman most at risk of a teenage pregnancy. Often, they have low educational attainment, their families have had financial problems, their own mothers were teenage mums, and they have a preference themselves for early motherhood. More than half of those with all these characteristics will become a teenage mother. Very few of those with none of them will. The last thing anyone wants to do is stigmatise vulnerable young people. But you do them a disservice by ignoring the facts.

Lastly, Yasmin is wrong to suggest that the Unit's work has been blocked or delayed for dark political reasons. The truth is rather more mundane. The Unit's work on teenage parenthood has produced over three times more submissions and pieces of research than any of its other reports. Its past work has been characterised by a belief in listening to views from the front line and a commitment to producing soundly based,

common-sense proposals. Teenage pregnancy is a complex area. I am sure Yasmin would agree that it is better that we do it right rather than do it in a hurry. The costs of getting it wrong are too high. TESSA JOWELL MP Minister of State for Public Health Department of Health London SW1

### St Martin's legacy

the-Fields church, what better image to erect on the vacant plinth in Trafalgar Square (letters, 16 December) than that of Martin, born in eastern Europe, died in France, whose feast day in the Christian calendar is 11 November. the day we associate with

armistice after ghastly comba In youth a soldier, he died a F missionary of the gospel of peace. and is famous for having shared his military cloak with a naked beggar A sculptor could represent in contemporary terms this dramatic act of sharing. Mindful as we are of " the need for the rich nations to share with the poor, the need to solve the problem of debt owed by developing nations, the need to tackle inequalities in our national life, and the claims on our charity made daily by individuals in our own cities and towns, a statue of Martin and a beggar could provide an inspiration for us all to carry into the third millennium of the Christian era. The Rev RICHARD HAYES St Mary Woolnoth Church London EC3

### Least said ...

Sir: I thought Thursday's article on minimalism good fun - but a bit WALTER JACK

# Every lame, sitting and dead duck will have its day

I HAVE received many letters on the subject of our bombing raids on Iraq, with an interesting range of viewpoints, and I have decided to print some of them here today.

From General Sir Nigel Curmudgeon MC Sir: Am I the only one who finds the spectacle of Tony Blair following in Bill Clinton's wake, rather like the little page boy following Good King Wenceslas, a bit nauseating? If we must try and settle Saddam's hash, surely we should not duck our responsibilities but have the courage to go in there and bomb the hell out of Baghdad without waiting for the Americans to join in? The sight of Tony Blair trotting along like Clinton's poodle is enough to make your blood boil.

From Mrs Noreen Dempster Sir: As past president of the Poodle Society of Great Britain, I take great exception to the imputation of the preceding letter that a poodle is a weak-minded, copycat of a dog. The poodle is loyal, yes, but also independent, brave, intelligent and anything but a milksop. I do not know how the poodle ever got the reputation of being a lame duck, but I resent the way it has become a general Aunt Sally. Let us have an end to it - or at least make fun of some other dog for a while!

From Mrs Sally Wagstaff Sir: Here we go again. I refer, of course, to the phrase used in the preceding letter, namely "Aunt Sally". I have gone through my life grinding my teeth with fury at the

image of this name as some sort of sitting duck for general target practice. It is high time it ceased. I have had it up to here with peo-ple saying "Aunt Sally", which not only suggests that Sally is a silly name but also that all Sallys are aunty-ish. I am young and pretty so the phrase "Aunty Sally" makes me feel a bit schizophrenic sometimes. Yours etc

From Mr Dick Norman Sir: I cannot believe that someone who is so sensitive about her name can be so insensitive about the use of the word "schizophrenic". For heaven's sake, do people still think that "schizophrenic" means "having a split personality"? Schizophrenia is a complex mental state which takes various forms, but split personality is not one of them.



KINGTON

The sight of Tony Blair trotting along like Clinton's poodle makes the blood boil

Let me assure you that the old idea of schizophrenia is a dead duck.

Sir: I feel I cannot resist acting in my capacity as a keen ornithologist and pointing out that in every letter you have printed so far, there has been a calculated insult to my favourite bird, the duck. Duck responsibilities... lame duck... sitting duck...dead duck... All the old cliches have been trotted out - I am surprised that nobody has yet used "out for a duck" - and all at the ex-pense of the good old duck. But why? The duck is a handsome creature. It is loyal, fiercely intelligent, faithful and obedient to its master, and also tastes jolly good

From Dr Ben Salamander

From Mr Solomon Gubbins Sir: I have long ago given up try-

more of this gubbins.

in orange sauce. Let us have no

ing to work out why the word "gubbins" is synonymous with "mess" or "dog's dinner". Nobody in this world has the surname Mess or Dog's-Dinner, but some of us are blessed with the name Gubbins and some of us are sick to death of this constant misuse of our monicker. Gubbins is a grand old Lincolnshire name meaning "gooseherd" or if it isn't, it jolly well should be, and if other Gubbinses are too lily-livered to stand up and defend their grand old name, then I am not.

From Mrs Lily Leadwell Sir: I think you can probably guess why I am writing to you in whitehot fury. Yes, it's that word "lilylivered". Oh, Mr Gubbins may get hot under the collar when he hears the word "gubbins", and he is en-

titled, but for him then to utter the word "lily-livered" without qualms is beyond the pale. Why link the lily and cowardice? The lily is a not only a lovely flower but is also fierce loyal, brave, intelligent and obedient. Let us have no more of this. Yours etc

From Mrs Dora Williams Sir, as my name suggests, I am Welsh, and one of the things I cannot abide is the use of the phrase "to welsh on someone". This phrase has not been used by any one in any of these letters, but I thought I would write in and say this anyway. Call me over-sensitive if you like. Everyone else does. Yours etc

Thanks for the letters. I am sort I did not have space for more:

حكذا من الاحلي

# \*THE INDEPENDENT

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# He should go. He won't go. And we'll be the worse for it

THE FIRST casualty of America's impeachment crisis is Tony Blair. As Bill Clinton hunkered down in Washington. Britain's Prime Minister came on ever more strongly in London as the military "victor" in the battle against Iraq.

It is a triumphalism he will have cause to regret. The bombing of Saddam Hussein was almost certainly not determined by Clinton's woes; but the high rhetoric of war and danger uttered while the Americans - with the British in tow - unleashed their might on Iraq night after night, was little more than obscene.

"Politics has become a substitute for violence," said Vice-President Al Gore on the White House lawn in fury after the impeachment vote. But whatever politics has become, violence is still unsubstituted - at least so far as the West "punishing" a Third World country is concerned.

But then it is the sheer unreality of events that has marked more than anything else the events of the last four days; the gap between the grave words of war and the arms-length, fully televised bombardment that followed; the distance between the magnitude of impeachment and the offence of philandering. To the politicians concerned, this may seem the most important, the most historic moment of their lives: Blair in his war bunker, and the Republicans taking over the articles of impeachment to the Senate. To the public at large, however, it has all the elements of boys playing games.

It is the gap between political reality and public perception which may well be the most important aspect of these events. Of course, there are real reasons for impeaching the President, just as there are real reasons for trying to destroy Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction. The reality is that a US president in the eyes of the majority of people in Congress has lied under oath and acted to pervert the course of justice, however sordidly irrelevant the actual case.

It is all very well for Clinton's supporters to go on about how partisan has been the occasion, and how personalised. It has been partisan, in the very worst possible way. And it has displayed a personal loathing of President Clinton that is beyond any fair or reasonable manner of conducting affairs. But then politics in America has always been passionately partisan. The last president to be impeached, Andrew Johnson, was tried by the Senate on entirely political grounds. It has been a myth of Reagan and now Clinton to talk of consensus and "pulling together". Politics is about power and when power is up for grabs - as it always is in the final term of a president and even more so when that President has opened his flank for the attack then the politics will get rougher.

Clinton's fault in these terms has not been to be too liberal, nor even that he sinned, but to have given the



impression that he didn't mind too much about it all. Given half a chance, he would bolt for the door and be up to his old tricks again as soon as no one was looking. The Republicans are determined that will not happen. Instead of encouraging censure as a painful lesson, Clinton's supporters have promoted it as a means of escape. And that, on present mood, the Congressional majority will not allow.

All this need not worry the US voter too much, America is a country of peculiar balances of power and unique resilience. It can survive a period of high temperatures in Washington without overheating in Kansas. Even Clinton - who in real policy terms has achieved remarkably little during his six years in office - could probably stumble on another two years continuing to do little more, shamed but not ashamed.

The world, however, will find it rather more difficult to cope not only with a passive America but one whose president is maimed and whose relations with the political establishment is so poisoned that he can deliver nothing but the occasional jabs of his military. It shouldn't be so. but the end of the Cold War and the shifts in economic fortune have left the international scene in an unusual vacuum. American leadership, or at least the provision of American muscle, is needed.

The Middle East is the obvious example. Clinton's visit to the region to try and revive the dying peace process was marred from the start by his troubles at home. If it was not for those troubles, he would probably never have tried it. The superimposition of the Iraqi crisis, coincident although it was, has only made that failure the worse. While Clinton and Blair have talked of containment, the rest of the Middle East has simply seen further evidence of Arab humiliation and powerlessness before the West. The allies, said Tony Blair at the beginning, had no choice but to respond once Saddam Hussein had deliberately cocked a snook at the inspectorate and made a mockery of his promises of a few months ago. But even accepting this, which we shouldn't, "no

choice" is the very worst route of politics. still more of war. The lesson of this - and the lesson that Blair seems so reluctant to understand - is that the vacuum of international politics has to be filled by international institutions. The result of the bombardment of Iraq has been a diminution of the UN. Blair has been left alone on a stage which should never have been held by a duet in the first place. As Clinton has failed at home, so Blair's divorce from the rest of the world and the ridiculousness of Britain's position as America's mercenary has seemed more glaring.

As for Clinton, one can only despair. The very character - his buoyancy - that makes him determined to fight on is the very character that means his enemies will not rest until they have finished him. It's almost impossible to see compromise in these circumstances, or any conclusion that does not bear the seeds of its own poison.

He should resign. He won't resign. The world will be rse for it, and Blair the littler

# Invitation to a beheading for the politicians of the next century

WHY ARE politicians, Clinton most night. The former Secretary of State dramatically among them, regarded with such contempt? In most opinion polls they vie with journalists for bottom place in public esteem. Journalists I can understand, but politicians? After all, there are only two ways of resolving conflict. One is through armed force and we see the grim consequences of that in Iraq. The other is through politicians with conflicting views manoeuvring, intriguing, manipulating and debating in order to win

I restate what Basil Fawlty would call "a statement of the bleedin" obvious" because there is a follow-up that should be as equally "bleedin' obvious": if practising the art of politics is a much better way of resolving disputes than military might, we need the best political leaders we can get. Pretty damned obvious isn't it? In which case, why do we impose conditions on the lives of political leaders that would deter all but the most driven or unhinged?

As we head towards the Millennium, a president of the United States has been impeached for an office fling. The British Foreign Secretary awaits nervously the publication of a book by his former wife, fearing that any revelations about his past private life will be splashed across every front page. His colleague, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. awaits with a similar trepidation the appearance of his biography written by a hostile journalist with a sharp instinct for news stories, having already been taunted for a trip to Rio de Janeiro and "outed" live on News-

for Wales licks his wounds, his political career in ruins after an excursion on Clapham Common. The Minister for Agriculture recovers from the ordeal of making a public statement confessing that he is gay. Several junior ministers fear it will be their turn next. What century are we living in?

Aspiring young Americans watching the humiliation of Clinton, ageing visibly before our eyes, will surely think twice about entering politics. The argument that justifies his persecution at the hand of desperate Republicans is that impeachment has nothing to do with sex and everything to do with perjury. In which case, how was it that Clinton was ever asked in court about his sex life? What a bizarre legal system which allows such questions to be posed to a president when his infidelities had no relevance to the breaking of any law. That is just the legal dimension. For the rest of the time, a president is placed on a pedestal only to be forced to dance humiliatingly to the discordant tunes of Congress. Clinton, a better president than the farce in Washington and the II-thought-out attacks on Iraq sug-

gest, does not deserve this. In Britain the humiliations of those we elect take a different, but equally perverse, form. Unlike American presidents, governments are given virtually untrammelled power. Mad policies such as the poll tax can reach the statute books without any great political tremors (the tremors come only once the mad policies take effect, by which time it is too late); entire tiers of government can be abolished at the



STEVE RICHARDS

Why do we impose such conditions on politicians' lives that deter all but the most driven or unhinged?

whim of centralising prime ministers such as Margaret Thatcher; antiterrorist legislation likely to have no practical effect on catching terrorists can be rushed through Parliament in two days, as happened last September, and a Commons debate on Iraq can be held without a vote being allowed at the end - but if a minister is caught on Clapham Common, there is uproar. And which business leader would accept an invitation to join the Government having seen Geoffrey Robinson, repeatedly, and Lord Simon, sporadically, being portrayed as crooks after taking unpaid, unglamorous junior ministerial posts?

The legislators should be given a hard time for bad legislation, not for their private lives. Maybe then Britain would get better politicians and bet-

from it. This government with its large majority, intolerance of dissent and weak opposition needs to be subjected to the most intense scrutiny at all times, including when its expensive bombs (paid for by "the people's money") are heading for Iraq. The same applies in the US. Clinton's mendacity cried out to be exposed and punished. But some sense of proportion should also be retained. The lies have been exposed. Clinton has been punished and humiliated for months. Enough; he should be allowed to finish his term as the voters now wish and as they wanted when they re-

elected him.

Of course some politicians merit the sneering cynicism with which they are viewed. There are bastards in politics as in any profession. But it is also true that many politicians could be earning infinitely more money in other jobs. At which point spare a thought, if you can face it so close to Christmas, for members of the Shadow Cabinet. I was not surprised to read the other day that John Redwood was contemplating leaving politics for a well-paid job elsewhere. Certainly his former adviser, Hywell Williams, told him to pack it in and make more money in the private sector after his leadership bid failed last year. I do not want to turn Redwood or Michael Howard into unlikely romantic heroes. Given the raw material, I would not succeed if I tried. Nor is there any need to shed a tear about their parlous financial states. But it should be noted that they are

This is not to argue that politicians staying on in opposition, knowing should be treated uncritically: far almost certainly that they will not taste power again, heading towards retirement issuing unread press releases. In October 1997, I asked Redwood why he was staying on. "There has to be an opposition.

Someone's got to do it," he said.

They are doing their duty and unlike Labour in the early 1980s when most of the Shadow Cabinet seemed to be having a ball as the party headed towards oblivion - they do not even look as if they are enjoying it. There were also many Labour frontbenchers who could have earnt much more elsewhere in the 1980s but stayed on in what many of them thought would be a forlorn attempt to revive their party.

With the media so vast and the opportunities in business so great, politics already faces immense competition for talent. Ken Livingstone observed after the Thatcherite assault on local government that anyone who wished to become a

councillor should see a psychiatrist. As a president faces a trial in the Senate and politicians in Britain live in fear of some infidelity or other being exposed, how many bright young things are going to opt for national polities in the new century? If the future crop of national politicians do not impress, we voters are largely to blame. We get the politicians we deserve. If we want better ones, we should never forget that the alternative to their manoeuvring is the resolution of dispute through battle. A rowdy debate in the Commons is an infinitely more pleasing spectacle than the rubble of a bombed building in Baghdad.

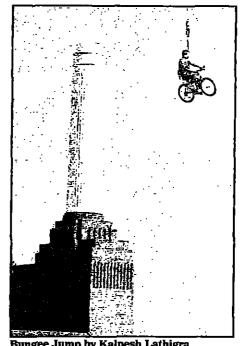
### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What we have done is to put him back firmly in the cage and secure it." Tony Blair, on Saddam Hussein

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"I have been told I was on the road to hell, but I had no idea it was just a mile down the road with a dome on it." Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States

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ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD British press reaction to the impeachment of

sis. He has faced a trial rigged weighs his affair with a young on party lines by right-wingers determined to drive him out of

woman in the White House. Sunday Mirror

office is particularly outrageous Americans] think he is doing a THOSE WHO still seek to defend MANY PEOPLE... forget that other aspects of his presiden- at this time of international cri- good job - and that far out- [Clinton] on the grounds that America's authority in the

he should not have been impeached because of hankypanky with an employee young enough to be his daughter totally miss the point. It is about America's chief law enforcement officer solemnly swearing to protect the country's system of law - then lying before a Federal Grand Jury and obstruct-

ing justice. The Mail on Sunday

matters as much, and Mr Clinton has been found wanting. If he survives a Senate trial, many will believe he has been allowed to mock the constitution he is charged to uphold. Unlikely that it is, Mr Clinton should go quietly before he

world depends on more than its

physical strength. The integri-

ty of the man in the Oval Office

inflicts further damage on his country, and allows Saddam the last, hollow laugh.

The Sunday Times

IN THE end, the issue is about the constitutional implications of resignation, and whether it is warranted by the seriousness of [Clinton's] offence. American voters have made their views clear on this - they want neither resignation nor impeachment. Unless and until that chan-

ges, Clinton should stay on. The Observer

CLINTON HAS lost the credibility he might have earned for

cy and is no longer fit to lead the Western world. The Republican Speaker-elect, Bob Livingston, showed him the way to go when he resigned from the House of Representatives (over) his extra-marital affair. It is time to show Bill the door, and say hello to Gore. News of the World

THE CRUDE Republican attempt to kick Mr Clinton out of the presidency. Most (ordinary

## **MONITOR**

President Clinton by the US Congress

# **PANDORA**

IN A Commons debate on "competitiveness" last Wednesday, the nation's greatest living spin-doctor, DTI minister Peter Mandelson, was stunned by an Alien Force described by Mandelson himself later as "extra-planetary". Can anyone provide Pandora with a translation of Tory MP John Redwood's following statement: "Is the e-envoy in addition to the digital envoy announced a short while ago? Will those two gentlemen or ladies be in competition, or has the digital envoy been abolished before being approved, only to be replaced by the putative e-envoy? The whole thing is risible and muddled." Anyone have a Vulcan dictionary handy?

AS THE joyous Christmas television festival descends upon us, Pandora offers readers a few "must-see" tips. On Christmas Day, during Before They Were Famous III on BBC 1, don't miss the clip in which schoolboy David Beckham is shown juggling a football in front of a bunch of seated lads until he accidentally makes contact with one of their heads. Presenter Angus Deayton chimes in with: "David later claimed he never made contact with the lad, but if we carefully examine the video evidence I think we can see that he did." Isn't that hilarious? And if your sides aren't already split beyond repair. tune in on Boxing Day to BBC 2's profile "Are You Watching Jimmy Hill?" in which Terry Venables describes walking across the pitch with Jimmy at an Everton vs Liverpool match. The crowd began to chant "Jimmy Hill's a wanker, Jimmy Hill's a... " And what did Jimmy say? "They love me here." Oh yes, you'll laugh till you cry.



partake in the GQ lifestyle it's not necessary to be wealthy or upperclass - "you just have to feel that you could rob a bank". It's to be hoped this won't be necessary, but the ex-New Lad certainly has a struggle on his hands. The magazine's total ABC news-trade sales figures for the period January-June 1997, just before Brown's arrival, were 111,547. The most recent figures, January-June 1998, were 104,481.

TAKES DIGNIFIED announcement in the current Spectator that he is to leave these shores - "I crap on cowardly pygmies like Cook, Mandelson and Straw, and will give up my British residence as soon as Palazzo Taki is ready in February" – threatens to cast the nation into mourning. In the meantime. news reaches Pandora of a triumph scored at a recent New York luncheon party by the astute Greek political and ethical commentator. While brandishing his cheque book, the lionbearted Taki managed to face down such celebrity dwarves as novelist Norman Mailer, writer Gay Talese. actor Michael Douglas. Vanity Fair editor Graydon Carter and Pulitzer Prizewinning journalist David Halberstam – all of whom lacked the courage to accept the Greek's political betting proposition. And what was the wager? Taki wanted to bet that Bill Clinton would not be impeached.

NOT LONG ago media luminary Janet Street-Porter sparkily regaled executives at an Institute of Sale Promotion lunch about her latest television commercial. She reported that she had been rewarded with £35,000 and an original Alexander McQueen dress from entertainment group ONdigital. The thrust

> of Janet's unique place in the public's affection. with her saying to camera: "Hello, I know you don't like have a choice." Unfortunately, when Pandora finally reached Janet to discuss this original marketing ploy, Ms Street-Porter was not in her usual beneficent mood. "Stop harassing me," she rasped. 'You're really irritating me. Go ahead and write what you like. I

> > don't ever call

So it will be,

back, I don't want

to be in diaries."

# An actor damned by his creation

ANTHONY HOPKINS, who last week covered the tabloids with statements that acting was driving him to a nervous breakdown and that he was giving it up to preserve his sanity, is a highly gifted film and stage actor, particularly in film where he famously demonstrates a rare talent for analysis of character. He peels back the skin of his roles, not unlike Hannibal Lecter, and pours himself inside them. He cannot, as many players do, stand outside and kick their character around and be unaffected. No matter how successful Silence of the Lambs was, how clever his creation, it is possible that he may feel sullied and even damned by it.

If in my modest career I have been frequently singled out for a particular performance in some old Hollywood caper, how much more must Hookins's ears be assaulted by fans who have now relegated the man's entire career to a sickomovie freak. Eventually you become who the public think you are, unless you are bolstered by a vital and supportive social structure, or have alternative means of re-identifying yourself, by taking up the reins of



#### **STEVEN** BERKOFF

Theatre can be a great restorer, the baptismal river where your sins are washed off

production and selecting your own material. By his own admission Hopkins is a loner, preferring his own company, which is the prerogative of many hyper-creative and raw artists, but then he has no wedge of human flesh as a protective wall between him and the world.

Acting per se does not make you mad, necessarily, unless you feel that you have vitiated your power or corrupted your talents. Hopkins certainly hasn't done this to anything like the extent of his saner inferiors who wallow from junk to junk seemingly unaffected. However, these actors are not burdened with Hopkins's finer perceptions. Madness is directly linked to forcing a highly developed ego to swallow garbage. The more delicate the system, the

more aggressive the sickness. Monroe started to lose herself, as did Montgomery Clift, and a dozen more who were force-fed with the mulch that their talents had grown out of and were not strong enough to withstand. The actor is unique in a sense that the material used is his own body and soul. This makes him extraordinarily vulnerable. However, vulnerability can illuminate a character that the actor believes in and feels pride in serving. Conversely, humiliation can send an actor into a wobbly, where the shame can only be anaes-thetised by alcohol injection.

Madness for actors is par for the course. However, most great actors are extremely sane. They may suffer from hyper-awareness, having stretched their radar systems, since after a while, the scanner cannot be easily switched off. Obsessions, compulsions and perfectionism become a few of the many psychic disrurbances that we are prone to. Some of us have managed to balance an acting life with writing or directing, thus the child becomes a parent. able to create for others.

While theatre can be stressmaking, a great and demanding role can be liberating and purging an opportunity to vent all shades of emotion, including those of madness in the service of the character. This has a purgative effect. Since theatre usually deals with language in a heightened form, the roles you are playing are likely to enhance rather than deflate or humiliate.

You cannot feel shame playing Lear, Hamlet, Macbeth or Chekov. You might feel pride, be heartened, even ennobled and believe yourself to be an emissary of literature, a communicator or a teacher. An intelligent audience confirms you as their guide - their Prometheus carrying the fire of inspiration. A bunch of spotty popcorn eaters slurping Pepsi and watching Silence of the Lambs is not likely to do that, but [Hopkins's role in] Remains of the Day was a perfect performance ... any actor would have been proud of r years.

Nevertheless, without wishing to bang the luvvie drum, theatre for an actor can be a great restorer, the baptismal river where your sins are washed off. That's why many a movie actor who was stage-trained likes to return to the font as a means of recovering their ego. There an actor's skill, sensitivity and power is tested to the limit and thus the personality re-identifies itself. Madness is a form of alienation from the soul.

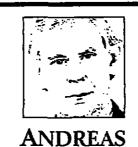
And if I'm not mistaken, it was the theatre that helped restore Hopkins's career when he returned after years of Hollywood drift. At 60, Sir Anthony appears to be an actor in peak condition - maybe the answer is to have an occasional theatrical restorative. Olivier was still playing Othello at 60 and then Edgar in Dance of Death - a very suitable role for Hopkins. One of the good things about theatre is that it gives you a little time to dwell on your madness, but a great oppor-

# Nothing has felt quite right about the attacks on Iraq

WAS THERE large-scale rejoicing yesterday after the Prime Minister's announcement that the aims of military action against Iraq had been achieved, and within four days, and with no allied casualties? Of course not. The reaction has been one of mild relief, no jubilation, no satisfaction taken from a job well done. The reason is that nothing that has happened since bombing began on Wednesday night has felt quite right.

To begin with, it didn't feel quite right that President Clinton should launch the attack just before the House of Representatives was due to debate his impeachment. In a democracy, the leader needs moral authority to wage war and to risk the lives of members of the armed forces. Indeed the President of the United States is also America's Commander-in-Chief. Yet immedithe majority leader in the Senate, Trent Lott, said: "I cannot support this military action in the Gulf at this time." This turning of the back, by the senior member of the Republican Party, when American troops were risking their lives, was astonishing. By then it was too late for Tony Blair to withdraw, but was he not bewildered when he saw the patriotic Republican Party disown the Commander-in-Chief? Nor was the report by the United

Nations' inspectors in Iraq, whose negative findings on the government's level of compliance was the immediate cause of Anglo-American retaliation, as widely accepted as one would expect. President Clinton gave their account an effective spin - instead of the inspectors disarming Saddam, Saddam had disarmed the inspectors - but the UN secretary general, Koffi Annan, described Iraqi compliance as a "mixed picture" that falls short of "full cooperation". In fact the so-called



# WHITTAM **SMITH**

Why were Saddam's neighbours not urging us on, providing help and rejoicing in our success?

Unscom report does not predict an emergency. It merely refers to routine violations.

Curious, too, was the reaction of the supposed beneficiaries of the bombing of Iraq, the neighbouring countries of the Middle East. The President and the Prime Minister said that Saddam must not be allowed to threaten his neighbours with nuclear weapons, poison gas or biological weapons. Indeed not. But why, then, were the neighbours not urging us on, providing all the help they could and rejoicing in our success? Mr Blair implies that they secretly harbour these emotions but dare not express them. We are to think of them as profoundly but silently thankful.

This is possible. On the other overriding feeling of Iraq's neighnations from what is seen as the

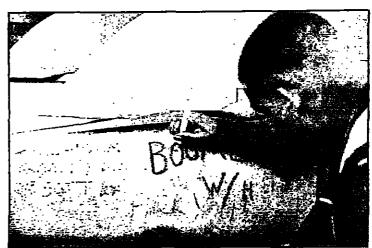
ever its faults. In which case, one wonders what we are doing there. We used to be told that intervention was necessary to protect our oil supplies. Now that there is a glut so that even last week the oil price continued to fall - this is no longer

out forward as a reason.

Instead, we are asked to consider a more general point. While other countries possess weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles. with Saddam there is one big difference - he has used them, not once but repeatedly. Left unchecked. Saddam will use these terrible weapons again. This is a proposition with seeming power. It implies that the international community cannot dictators holding such weapons. Except that three members of the and China – do not agree that Saddam is such a worrying case. Nor do we receive any support worth having from our European partners. Germany's backing is tepid to the point of meaninglessness. The rest are silent. The moral case receives no support from other countries like ourselves.

This is very peculiar. One explanation would be that our European neighbours do not believe that Saddam's Iraq is such a terrible threat. They note that of Saddam's 950 short- and medium-range missiles that he had acquired before 1991, all have been found and destroyed. Thus he lacks conventional means of projecting chemical or biological material beyond his borders.

An alternative interpretation is hand, the silence may be because the that France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the rest simply do not believe in bours is repugnance at the sight of the efficacy of aerial assault. The snatches of film of bombs hitting Christian, colonialist West assault- their targets which the Ministry of ing a Muslim, Arab country, what- Defence shows every day are not



and should not tolerate murderous A US airman writes a 'goodwill' message on a missile

convincing. We have no idea whether day, Dennis Halliday, who ran the UN Council - France, Russia tified or whether it contains what it dad, resign is said to contain. Did we destroy any Republican Guards, or "special" Republican Guards or the "drones of death" as the Secretary of State, George Robertson, calls the unmanned aircraft which Saddam is

supposed to be constructing? Likewise we are asked to believe that Saddam can only maintain his power by using a "command and control" system and this we have severely damaged. But in the past, dictators have generally got along without such sophisticated communications networks.

It may also be the case that our neighbours' withholding of support is explained by their embarrassment. For they see American policy as cruel and counter-productive. Cruel because some Iraqi civilians have undoubtedly been killed or injured during the past few days, and cruel because the policy of economic sanctions has reduced Iraq to a state of malnutrition and disease. As Robert Fisk reported on Fri-

five permanent members of the the target has been correctly iden-oil-for-food programme in Baghthousands of Iraqi children were dying every month because of sanctions. He commented: "We are in the process of destroying an entire society ... it is illegal and immoral."

And counter-productive, because dictators often generate loyalty by standing up to and fighting a wicked external enemy, the Great Satan in some form or other. On this reading Saddam will have been delighted by Anglo-American resolve to maintain sanctions and patrol the Gulf. Not so much "Oh, what a lovely war!" but

Oh, what a lovely enemy!". It has been a strange few days for this country. We really need to understand why we received scarcely any backing from countries with whom we have much in common, and whose leaders and citizens are in constant touch with us. What do they perceive which we do not? What have we understood which they have failed to comprehend? What is the meaning of this episode, where nothing rings true?

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#### Protectionism may follow the euro THE ADVOCACY of Eu- Europe to argue that the comropean integration has pletion of the internal market gained much from its makes monetary union urgen

alliance with the free trade doctrine derived from Ricardo, and which proved such a powerful intellectual weapon in the 19th century. Even before the creation of the European Economic Community, the European Payments Union was designed to facilitate trade. Then the Economic Community itself had as one of its major initial objectives the removal of tariffs between the members. Although this was strikingly - and speedily successful - it soon became apparent that "non-tariff barriers" – meaning, principally, product quality and safety regulation - were imposing costs in trade of the same type

as tariffs previously had. Thus the Internal Market Programme, or the "1992 Proiect" as it came to be known. was devised to remove these barriers as well. Monetary Tinion should be seen as a further step along this road in two respects. First, the removal of transactions costs in trade eliminates one further barrier. But second, it has become commonplace in Continental

change rate depreciations to increase their export market. Thus, exchange rate protection is seen to be the new threat, once non-tariff barriers have been removed. The same basic argument is applied to the Social Chapter, and most recently to tax harmonisation.

One can hardly fail to be impressed by these developments in Europe. The achievement of such a high degree of free trade is impressive in its own right and - at least from a certain perspective one must be impressed by the depth of integration which has proven so welcome to much of the Continent. However, the outlook for free trade may not be so positive. On the course on which the European Union is heading, it is in danger of playing into the hands of protectionist elements. This is by no means exclusively a consequen ce of monetary union, but it is significantly so, and the dangers of a substantial move towards protectionism grow as integration deepens. Nor is



PODIUM JAMES FORDER

From the annual Politeia Lecture by the economist at 2 Carlton House Terrace, Pall Mall, London

there anything uniquely European in the dangers. Nation states are subject to many of the same pressures, but I believe the European Union is poorly placed to deal with them, and consequently, more likely to be susceptible to them.

The history of European integration reveals that the member states continue to perceive an interest in protectionism. In the celebrations that attended the success of the

1992 Project's removal of nontariff barriers, a question rarely asked was why such a programme was necessary. Or alternatively, why had non-tariff barriers not been removed along with tariff barriers in the early 1960s, if they were agreed to be equivalent in their effects?

The answer is that non-tar-

iff barriers only became a substantial problem after the removal of tariffs. It does not take much imagination to see that they also became a problem because of the removal of tariffs. The problem was that the means of protection (tariffs) had been removed, but the motives for it (whatever pre-

cisely they may be) had not. So it should be recognised that the creation of the Customs Union - although surely desirable - operated in part in the manner of treating symptoms. The underlying causes of protection remained.

Europe has been blighted by unemployment throughout the 1980s and 1990s. The causes of this can be argued about. One popular view is that a "rigidity" of labour markets is to blame. I find it difficult to take that seriously since the extent

market is more rigid now than in the 1960s must be very limited. An alternative explanation is that the policy framework adopted by most countries early in the 1980s, and subsequently written into the Maastricht Treaty, has done more or less permanent damage to labour markets - and such excessive concern with inflation is to be avoided in future.

Whatever the explanation of unemployment, however, one cannot escape the fact that it creates the political circumstances which are favourable to protectionism. In recent years, most of Continental Europe has been heading towards monetary union, and in most countries this has been a popular objective. Political élites have succeeded in arguing that the pain of the Maastricht process must be endured in order for the prize to be won.

Well, the prize is about to be won, and it will certainly not result in a quick fall in unemployment. It remains to be seen what the popular reaction to this will be, but it is difficult to rule out a great deal of pressure for protectionism to safeguard jobs to which any European labour and create new ones.

حكذا من الاحل

# Fairy lights and surgical strikes



JOHN WALSH

Who can see the livid tracer-fire and not think of it as our gift of Christmas illuminations to Saddam?

"SHE CHANGES her expression/ And puts on smy-ull/ Baby Expressions." trill the children as we thread our way through the crush in Hamleys. They are singing an advertising jingle off the telly. Baby Expressions is apparently a new doll of mercurial disposition whose face successively radiates fear, loathing, suspicion, hatred, depression and wind while your children are playing with it. Despite its violent mood-swings (which, if it were a real kid, would make you suspect it of being on drugs), it's what Clementine, aged three, most wants for Christmas.

I try to explain to her that a doll is not supposed to have an emotional range; that it is a neutral template upon which to project certain role-playing emotions of one's own; that it is merely a plastic homunculus created to encourage an infant's childrearing instincts. Clementine regards me steadily. She is obviously impressed by my confident grasp of toy psychology. Then she sticks out her quivering lower lip like an okapi and her blue eyes fill with tears.

"But it's niiiice," she cries, as stubborn as Saddam Hussein in Violet Elizabeth Bott ringlets. My otherwise charming daughter has suddenly turned into Baby Expressions (though without the smy-ull) and frankly, they deserve each other.

She's also keen on Dentist Barbie, the latest incarnation of the slender plastic dreamboat who (a tiny disclaimer on the scardboard packaging advises you) "cannot stand up unaided". We have all, I think, been out with girls like that. I'm just surprised at this new turn in her restless professional career. After being a doctor, a policewoman and an Olympic skier, she's now eschewed the more modern options of Spin Doctor Barbie (those boring Armani suits would never do) and PR Executive Barbie (too many hats, real and metaphorical) and plumped for dentistry, which gives her the chance to wear a gleaming white uniform and wield a little battery of probes and mouthwash glasses.

Dolls apart, Christmas shopping has been a learning curve of nomenclature. I have schlepped the streets like the Ancient Mariner asking strangers if they've heard of the Nerf Eagle-Eye, a gun of spectacular proportions upon which my son's festive equilibrium depends. Ignorant as a yule log when it comes to computer games, I've caught up with the Play Station empire at last and its excitable personnel – like Crash Bandicoot, a name Mervyn Peake would have been proud to invent. Until last week, the bandicoot was an insectivorous and herbivorous marsupial of the genus — Jameles; its names derives. I need hardly remind you, from the Telegu word



Disabled Barbie, accompanied by two others of the Barbie range, might make a topical Christmas gift

pandikokku meaning "pig-rat". Well forget that. It now has a new global identity as a hyperactive cartoon rat who rides around on motor bikes looking for jewels and blasting anyone who gets in the way.

And there's that other word. Along Regent Street, the overhead illuminations inform the children that Christmas is the season to be "Tango'd". What does it mean, Dad? It means, my dears, that the point of the festive season is apparently for its celebrants to become intoxicated with fizzy orange drinks. Can this be true? Four years ago, when the Christmas lights featured characters from Aladdin to advertise the newly-released Disney movie, I rang the Association of Oxford Street Shop-owners to ask how they'd allowed it to happen.

"But Aladdin is terribly Christmass
the lady PR said.

"Madam." I replied coldly. "Aladdin

"Madam," I replied coldly, "Aladdin is from The Arabian Nights, a book of Persian fairy tales translated into Arabic in AD 850. It's about as Christmassy as the Sphinx." "Oh," she said, roguishly, "but, you know, Widow Twankey and all that."

Widow Twankey and all that."

The fact that Disney had handed over a colossal wedge of cash for letting the Genie gatecrash the crib, as it were, wasn't mentioned. And now we shake our heads about the Tango sponsorship as if it weren't the natural consequence of commercial spon-

sorship. In my view, we should simply congratulate whichever marketing genius was responsible for ensuring that nobody will ever utter the name "Tango" again without a grimace of distaste.

BUT AS one races around town, getting and spending, noting with amusement this gross innovation. that amusing toy, everything seems to turn into a mirror of the events in the Middle East. You don't have to be a connection-hungry poet to find awful correspondences between trivial matters here and terrible events there. Who can look at the livid tracer-fire, the after-burners of missiles and the crimson striations in the night sky over Baghdad and not think of them as our present of Christmas illuminations to the back-sliding infidel?

Look at the face of five-year-old Susan Jasin in a Baghdad hospital with her head swathed in muslin and it's clear: 'tis the season to be bandaged. After the PM's assurances about the Iraqi leader's continued demonic intentions, Saddam Hussein becomes a moustachioed Crash Bandicoot, hunting down the sacred jewels of oil and land. Listen to the US Chief of Staff's lectures about the surgical precision of cruise missiles and an image lodges in your head of a juvenile war-monger at the Pentagon,

his thumbs working away at a Play Station console, sending 200 Tomahawks across a TV screen and marvelling at the realism of the destruction that ensues. Just trying to buy a Nerf Eagle-Eye gun fills your head with that endless mantra: "weapons of mass destruction". You can't, any more, tell the lady from the Oxford Street Association that the Arab world is nothing to do with Christmas when your dinner-party companions speculate whether bombing the Middle East during Ramadan would be the equivalent of their bombing us during the Queen's Speech. Even when they decided to cease the raids at the weekend, it felt as if we were just waiting for the next build-up, the next inspection-team report, the next presidential phone call. It will probably take about seasonal chore, like pulling the Christmas

tree lights out of their box in the attic.

In his address to the nation on Friday, Saddam Hussein thanked the early-warning-system technologists who anticipated the first wave of US missiles, and called them "the grandchildren of Zarqaa al-Yamama", a famous Iraqi seer who could see things at a great distance. So could Nostradamus, who prophesied that Armageddon would fall at the end of the second millennium. I've never known a more unsettling time to be sending greetings

cards invoking "peace on earth, goodwill to all men", when the TV is hiccupping with threats, and the rumble of B-52 bombers punctuates the *Nine O'Clock News*.

THE CHRISTMAS spirit does not, apparently, work overtime. Four days ago, I ordered the turkey and smoked ham from Hester's, the marvellous bespoke butcher's shop beside Vauxhall Gardens. The boss and I exchanged badinage. He reminisced about the biggest turkey that had ever passed through his hands – 69lbs, he said, and the only oven large enough to take it was the ancestral furnace at Westminster's Children Hospital. I bought some sausage meat with chestnuts. He threw in some chipolatas. We couldn't have been friendlier. It was a Pickwickian scene to gladden the heart.

"Goodbye," he said at last, "and in case I don't see you again, merry Christmas". "But we'll see each other next week," I replied. "when I come to pick the bird up."

The butcher looked at me sadly.

"By Tuesday it'll be chaos in 'ere: 15lb turkeys all over the place. We'll all be far too growly to be nice to customers."

So, in the same tradition of curmudgeonly realism – before things get too fraught and snappish in the land of deadlines, happy

Christmas to all in Readerland.

# OF REPLY HAROLD W

**RIGHT** 

HAROLD V RUBIN

A London gallery owner responds to Tom Lubbock's 'Critical Condition' article on the state of the visual arts in Tuesday's Independent

AS A London gallery owner, I should be qualified to answer Tom Lubbock's article on criticism. I have designed numerous galleries, I have been a curator and I am (once again) a dealer. I own many works of art. However, I am not rich, nor have many of the persons to whom I have sold art been rich, unless, in the words of Bernard Barruch, "being rich is having a dollar more than you can spend".

What Mr Lubbock has done is to compound the myth and misunderstanding about how and why art is exhibited and who is concerned with it. No; very rarely will a review help to sell much of the art it discusses. Taking his premise further, I know that it would be cheaper and less work if I dealt privately and avoided having a gallery open to the public. My desire for his review or that of others is for the artist's sake. Many artists whose work I have shown are more anxious for that word than for the sales which might help support them financially. Time after time I have to explain how hard I have tried to make contact and been ignored. At last there has been some explanation as to how the chosen ones are selected.

Admittedly, there are so many galleries and so many artists that getting a few words in print is doubtless as rare as winning the Lottery. The purpose of an exhibition is that an artist will see and evaluate his own work in having it arranged together in an environment other than his own workshop.

I know from experience how the work will change and develop after such a showing. One painter answered the question of who he painted for with: "Myself and 12 friends." Could a critic's role be that of helping find those friends as his contribution and responsibility?

Every so often one sees or hears of a neophyte visitor who wakes to an awareness he has never experienced before when looking at an exhibition. It is nice to encourage these souls.

# In search of Christian values

AS ALAN Wilkinson reports in the penultimate chapter of *Christian Socialism*, surveys show that the Prime Minister's Christian commitment is one of the best known facts about him. This Jok is written to describe and evaluate the disunctively socialist strand of Christian social concern, which goes back in this country to the early days of the 19th century.

I encountered this tradition when it was at its most publicly influential, in the middle of the Second World War. As a boy of 17, I attended the much-reported 1942 meeting in the Albert Hall when Archbishop Temple and Sir Stafford Cripps launched an overtly Christian campaign for moral and social renewal after the war. In that same year Temple, as Archbishop of Canterbury, published a Penguin Special on christianity and the social order. It sold 139,000 copies and was re-published in 1976 with a foreword by Sir Edward Heath. Temple said that the widespread sales were because "everyone is planning the good world which we hope to see the war is over".

At the end of the war, while still serving in the army in India, I also was looking forward to this "good world" when Attlee was elected Labour prime minister. I rejoiced in the opportunity to implement the beveridge Report, and to carry



# **MONDAY BOOKS**

CHRISTIAN SOCIALISM:
SCOTT HOLLAND TO TONY BLAIR
BY ALAN WILKINSON, SCM PRESS, £14.95
THE NEW POLITICS: CATHOLIC SOCIAL
TEACHING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
EDITED BY PAUL VALLELY, SCM PRESS, £14.95

forward a vision of social organisation related to Christian and humanist understanding of comfor its idolatrous belief in the free market and

munity and mutually responsible citizenship.

Beveridge attended Balliol College, Oxford, at the beginning of this century with William Temple and the noted Christian socialist teacher and writer RH Tawney. Tawney made a notable (though critical, for he was no utopian) contribution to Christian socialist thought in a series of books such as The Acquisitive Society. Equality, and the classic Religion and the Rise of Capitalism. The public and political influence of this Balliol trio was at its height in that postwar enthusiasm, which I shared, for Christian socialism and a welfare state. Since then, much has changed. As reported by Wilkinson, in the

1980s I found myself confronting Thatcherism for its idolatrous belief in the free market and its offensive refusal to face the task of providing effective transitional care for the victims of capitalism's "creative gales of destruction" teven if that destruction was necessary, and in the long run hopeful). Wilkinson locates all this in an interesting and detailed account of the many-stranded developments of Christian socialism in the UK. He is wisely critical, prudentially concerned with a proper assessment of some aspects of Victorian values and the values of the market, reasonably doubtful about some aspects of New Labour, and with a sharp eye for the romantic Utopian tendencies in much Christian social thought.

He also reports some quotable remarks, of which my favourite is that of the Reverend Samuel Barnett, who founded Toynbee Hall in the East End in 1884. He argued that the state should help make society more equal by redistributive taxation. Barnett was wont to remark: "God loveth a cheerful tax-payer." Clearly a text to be commended to Messrs Blair and Brown.

In The New Politics, Paul Vallely has edited a competent account of the social teachings of the Popes, from Leo XIII in 1891 to John Paul II's seven documents between 1979 and 1995. The editor contributes a stimulating survey by way of introduction, a strong concluding chapter on "John Paul II and The New Millennium", and an epilogue "Towards a New Politics – Catholic social teaching in a pluralist society".

The latter ought to be required reading for all men and women who see their faith as inescapably involved in social and political action.

This essay – and indeed the entire book – provide powerful philosophical and moral points of significance to all humanists who search for uni-



versally shareable, and realistically hopeful, values. In between are chapters moving chronologically through the papal writings from six experienced writers, including the director of CAFOD on "Looking out on the World's Poor" the director of the Catholic Institute for International Relations on "People before Profit" and Clifford Longley on "Structures of sin and the free market". Taken together, they build into a remarkably sustained argument for an authoritative approach to social problems.

Alas, they do not settle the issue of how any religious body or person can claim to be right on vital issues when all churches and their representatives have obviously been wrong in the past on aspects of thinking, morals and actions. But both books highlight the fact that we Christians have something vital both to say, and to live up to. They challenge Christians to contribute more effectively to keeping our 21st-century world open to a sustainable, shareable and hope-

DAVID JENKINS

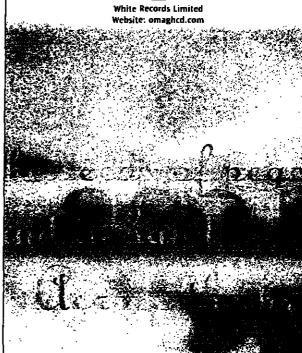
significance to all humanists who search for uni-



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## MONDAY POEM

CALAIS BY GLYN MAXWELI

They tin-opened his head.

Apparently it said
CALAIS across his brain
in red. Which should explain
the puzzlement and pain
and focus that he felt,
that afternoon he smelt
its fuel-and-fishy air,
then mulled it over in a square

like one whom little girls untasselling their hair in French and combing it to curls adore when he's thirteen,

who wonders what on earth they mean and guesses and is wrong, goes pink and carries on, finds the ferry gone.

Our poems until 8 January come from the 10 volumes shortlisted for this year's TS Eliot Prize, to be announced on 11 January. Glyn Maxwell's 'The Breakage' is published by Faber (£7.99)

Section 1

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Control of the Contro

al the control of the



this week his ashes will be scattered in the arena of Ronda bullring.

# Antonio Ordónez Araujo, matador,

born Ronda, Spain 16 February 1932, married 1953 Carmen Ganzalez Lucas (deceased; two daugh-

#### Admiral Sir Richard Thomas loyal to the British government busy - there were 13,000 of them in Flag Officer Second Flotilla (1985-87), which he thoroughly enjoyed, espe-cially in seeing whether his staff could be reduced to a number which without being disloyal to the Alliance those days, and he made some imto whose staff they had appointed and digestion of the lessons of the provements to the system. him. Here again the times were Then came a stint on the staff of against him; resources were scarce could realistically accompany him to the Flag Officer Flotills 1 (one of the and diminishing, and the end of the sea; this was a reflection of his seclater as the Cold War was ending. three divisions of the Fleet), followed Cold War brought a false optimism ond appointment as a Commander. with which his military mind had to by a move to Rosyth as Staff Officer He could have retired then after a contend. Experience has already vin-

RICHARD THOMAS joined the Royal Navy in 1951, when its distillation Second World War were being interrupted by Korea. He left it 40 years

The Cod Wars were the nearest he got to actual hostility, but he had a full, interesting and rewarding career, within the service for most of the time, but latterly as its representative - and that of the UK - in two key Nato posts. When he retired, he had the good fortune that another ing was waiting for him at the Palace of Westminster.

The son of a naval officer, Thomas joined the Navy from Downside. He lived the rest of his life very much in accordance with the tenets of its teaching. He was one of the happiest husbands and fathers; his entry in Who's Who testifies that his only recreation was his family. He was soon at sea in the old Elustrious, of Taranto fame but by 1951 the Home Fleet training carrier, and then in another veteran of wartime building, the cruiser Gambia.

Five years into his career, he started his professional acquaintance with the world outside the Navy as Flag Lieutenant to the Commander-in-Chief of the old East Indies station. Then came a succession of small ship appointments - navigator of a frigate (Eastbourne), watchkeeper in a destroyer (Crossbow), command of a landing ship (Buttress), and, still a Lieutenant, a coastal minesweeper (Wolverton).

Then in 1962 came the benchmark of an appointment to HMY Britannia. An early tendency to acerbity and impatience had disappeared with years and experience, and an especially distinguished execution of his duties as second in command of the frigate Torbay led to swift promotion to Commander and to the command of the destroyer Troubridge (1966-68).

This had been a good start to a career, with an abundance of sea time, but Thomas's next three appointments, i.e. the remaining six years in the normal zone for promotion to Captain, were all to be spent largely ashore. The deployment and training of seaman ratings kept him

Operations to FOSNI, the Flag Officer, Scotland and Northern Ireland. That job was dominated by the second Cod War of 1972, a large-scale and serious fishing dispute in Northern waters, ironically between two Nato allies and involving alas several colcareer, shorter but no less reward- lisions as nets were cut or ships ma-

noeuvred to avoid such an offence. Thomas was much involved, and revealed a steadiness under pressure and an attention to current details

good career: There had been the long apprenticeship at sea, then, promotion assured, a series of testing and rewarding appointments, concentrated on the personnel side, which led to the flag list and a good command affoat.

For the Navy of those days, which was beginning to dwindle in ships and in people, that was good going. Their Lordships were still teased by Parkinson's Law, but at the same time

At Nato, Thomas had the singularly difficult task of being loyal to the British government without being disloyal to the Alliance to whose staff they had appointed him

which did not distract him from remembering to think of future probabilities; because of this, he was appointed OBE. Most important, he was promoted - there were too many deserving candidates to allow for many over-zone promotions in those days - and it was as a Captain that he went to the Ministry of Defence, of which he had happily seen little so far,

to assist in the Polaris development. Captain Thomas went to sea with the Commando assault ship Feorless before attending the RCDS course of 1979; he had passed the RN staff course in 1963 and the Joint Services counterpart three years later. It was then that he was wisely directed back to the personnel side of the Navy, first as Director of Seaman Officers' Appointments (1980-82) and then, as a Rear Admiral and the Naval Secretary, responsible for the selection, employment and promotion of officers of all specialisations.

His last command at sea was as

there weren't enough good men to go round: it is a tribute to Thomas that although he was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time, he was with no doubt the right man.

while tensions did not diminish.

much admired. It was the after effects which hastened his death this

ginia (1987-89) and then, an Admiral,

month, and shortened his first real retirement. He was appointed KCVO when he left Westminster in 1995, and the Catholic Church recognised his life's work with a papal knighthood in the Order of Pope Pius IX.

Promoted Vice Admiral, he was Deputy Saclant (Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic) at Norfolk, Virthe UK Military Representative to Nato in Brussels. As the Supreme Commander was also C in C the US Atlantic Fleet, he delegated much of the Nato work to Thomas, who was hard pressed, especially as military resources were becoming scarcer

At Nato itself. Thomas had the singularly difficult task of being 13 December 1998.

were tasked with a steady number of posts of representational and interallied commitments for which good men had to be found. It is a tribute to the Admiralty Board's perspicacity that there were few occasions when it was whispered that perhaps

William Richard Scott Thomas, naval officer: born 22 March 1932: OBE 1974; Directorate of Naval Plans, MaD 1974-77; CO HMS Fearless 1977-78; Director, Office: Appointments (Seamen) 1980-83; Naval Secretary 1983-85; Flag Officer Second Flotilla 1985-87; KCB 1987; Deputy, Saciant 1987-89; UK Military Representative to Nato 1989-92; Gentleman Usher of the: Black Rod, and Serjeant-at-Arms, House of Lords, and Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain 1992-95; KCVO 1995; married 1959 Paddy Cullinan (two sons, four daugh-: ters, and two sons deceased); died

dicated his appreciations and efforts.

In 1991 he left the Navy and was ap-

pointed Gentleman Usher to the Black

Rod in 1992, a post which carried with

it the appointment of Serjeant-at-Arms

of the House of Lords and Secretary to

the Lord Great Chamberlain. All these

offices he delighted in, though relieved

that the second was more ceremonial

than disciplinarian. The duties have ex-

tended since the 16th century, and now

a staff of 80 deals with all administra-

to lead such a team, and in his

tenure proceedings were modified

and modernised. He had a stroke in

of a limp, but his mind and sense of

humour were unimpaired, and when

he returned to work his devotion to

duty was an example of self-discipline

A. B. SAINSBURY

1993, which left him with something

Richard Thomas was well suited

tive work in the House of Lords.

Thomas was created KCB in 1987.

# Antonio Ordóñez

for the benefit of the American public

A COUPLE of distinguished, if lighthearted. Spanish philosophers recently conducted a conference entitled "The Bullfighting Art of Antonio Ordónez" at Madrid's illustrious Fine Arts Circle. The matador himself attended on the last day. and when the participants had concluded their analysis of his artistic merit, he asked to say a few words. He began: "After listening to these friends, who know nothing of bull-

fighting . . . . The exchange - taken in good part on all sides - revealed both the sharp humour of this hero of what Spain's traditional newspapers still call the "fiesta nacional", and the deep cultural importance that bullfighting still enjoys in Spain. Ordónez

was one of its last remaining legends. He won fame in international literary circles in the 1950s through his friendship with Orson Welles and Ernest Hemingway. But in Spain in the 1950s and 1960s he became a myth, adored by the public and revered by fellow builfighters for his

bravery and the beauty of his art. He was born in the southern Spanish town of Ronda - bullfighting's ancestral home - in 1932, the son of Cayetano Ordonez, himself a well known bullfighter. Antonio's four brothers, Cayetano, Juan, Pepe and Alfonso all became bullfighters. Young Antonio faced his first calf in 1945 and made his début in the suit

bulls in his first season, A year later he suffered his first serious gor-

Thomas in his uniform as Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, House of Lords (1992-95)

ing. in Barcelona. In June 1951 he qualified as a matador and the following year, in a sensational season, he triumphed in Spain's principal bullfighting festivals, the Feria of Seville, and the

Rioja in 1948, aged 16. He fought 76 writer, who joined the two men's road show, describes their progress from builring to bullring across Spain throughout the 1959 season. The gruelling schedule prompted Ordónez's famous remark: "no one can become a bullfighter unless he can master the art of sleeping in the car". Compared with Dominguin's

Hemingway was devastated to discover that Ordónez and Dominguin had. hyped up the bitterness of their rivalry

fought more than 2,000 bulls during

In 1953 he married Carmen Gonzalez Lucas, better known as Carmina Dominguin, daughter of the torero Domingo Dominguin and sister of three matadors, including the most famous of the dynasty, Luis Miguel Dominguin, who was for

years Ordonez's fiercest rival. This battle between the two matadores in the late Fifties inspired Hemingway's report for Life magazine that he worked up into the book of lights in a corrida in Logrono, La The Dangerous Summer. The

San Isidro festival in Madrid. He cold and ruthless technique, Ordonez, though unaffected and elegant in style, burned with emotion and commitment. Hemingway was struck by Ordonez's determined passion to win. The writer was devastated to learn later that Ordónez and his brother-in-law had hyped up the bitterness of their ri-

valry for the benefit of the American public. Hemingway came to know Ordonez's father, known as El Niño de la Palma, when he fought at the bullrunning festival in Pampiona in the 1920s. Young Antonio called his fa-

ther's American friend "Papa

Later he became friendly with Orson Welles, who became so infatuated with the bullfighting world that the film director ordered his remains to be buried in Ordonez's "finca" in Ronda. "One day I'll explain how that came about," the bullfighter once promised, but he never

did explain\_ Ordónez always regretted that a builfighter had no control over the beasts he fought, especially in important bullrings like Madrid. He recalled a lunch in Bordeaux in 1952 with the pianist Artur Rubinstein who found it inexplicable that a torero could not choose his bulls as a pianist chose his piano. Ordóñez said: "It's as if someone told Paco de Lucia just before a concert: 'sorry,

not your guitar, this one'." He had one brush with death away from the bullring. In 1966, while driving a car near Cadiz he crashed and his passenger was killed. Ordónez was tried for homicide through careless driving, but

was acquitted. Ordonez cut off his pony-tail - as the saying goes - on 12 August 1971, although he had announced his retirement 10 years earlier. He devoted himself to breeding bulls on the ranch he had acquired in 1962, and became the owner and manager of the bullring in Ronda. There he organised the annual "corridos Goyescos" -



Ordónez (left) after being injured in the bullring at Dax, 1959, with Dominguin at right

builfights in the style and with the costumes immortalised by the 18th-cen-

tury master Francisco de Goya. His two daughters, Carmen Cayetana and Ana Belen, each married bullfighters. Last October Carmen's son Francisco Rivera, also a bulifighter, married Maria Eugenia Martinez de Irujo, daughter of the Duchess of Alba, one of Spain's

grandest grandees, in a wedding broadcast live on Spanish television. The proud grandfather was too ill with cancer to attend.

The conservative Labour Minister Javier Arenas and the Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa were among those paying respects to Or-

donez whose body lay in state in ters!, 1983 Pilar Lezcano, died Seville town hali yesterday. Later Seville 19 December 1998.



Affinity for Bach's music

SUSAN BICKNELL was a great champion of the viola. She performed the entire repertoire for the instrument, taught viola with great dedication at the Royal Junior College of Music and the Welsh College of Music and Drama and had started to record the works of Brahms and Schumann. Her need to get as close as possible to the heart of music also led her to embrace the period instrument movement and she performed frequently with London Baroque and the English Concert.

She was, with me, a founder member of the New Mozart Ensemble and of the Festival de St Agrève in France, and was a loval and inspiring colleague in chamber music, contributing many ideas and insights to help enrich our

Following her Wigmore Hall début in 1981 Bicknell gave concerts all over the world as a soloist, as guest with the Chilingirian and Al-legri String Quartets, as member of the Amati Quartet and with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, the English Chamber Orchestra and the London Philharmonic.

She was based in Florence for a number of years and on her return became principal viola of the Lon-Suites in 1996. don Mozart Players. She also delighted in opera and was a great champion of the now defunct Kent Opera which she was determined should continue to exist practical ideas in her playing. She

made sure that proceeds from the sale of this CD went to the Edmund

despite government axing of its funding. An eminent viola player, Bicknell was accepted originally as a violin student at the Royal College of portant to her. Music at the early age of 16. She later studied in Brussels. It was Orrea Pernel, the great Bach specialist, who persuaded Bicknell to switch to the viola and who became perhaps her greatest musical inspiration. The great affinity Bicknell felt for Bach's music is embodied in the fine recording she made of the Cello

Susan Bicknell

Here she was satisfied that she had made a true musical contribution and that she had also united certain of her own religious and

Emery Fund for cancer research, a cause which was particularly im-

Sue Bicknell was a deeply spiritual person. Her own Christianity sustained her throughout her life as did her knowledge of Eastern religions, particularly Zen and Tibetan Buddhism. She also gained under-standing of mathematical philosophy. Newton's laws and Einstein's theories, and delighted in making connections with her own artistic

and spiritual understanding. Her range of knowledge and her appetite for it was wide. She read extensively not only in English but also in French, Italian and ancient Greek,

which she had studied in order to make her own New Testament

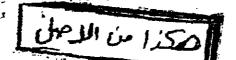
Susan Bicknell's talents as a teacher and performer were matched by a remarkable generosity of spirit. writes Jeffrey Tobias. It was typical of her that even during her final month of life she arranged for her string quartet, the Amati, to play at the Middlesex Hospital to help raise funds for

cancer research. This late in the day, she could barely feel the fingers of her left hand yet she somehow retained sufficient dexterity to sustain her wonderful technique. She never

complained throughout a lengthy illness lasting a decade, and in the latter years her professional ambition if anything seemed to accelerate: chamber works, baroque concerts and two unforgettable performances, as soloist, of Berlioz's Harold in Italy.

Eighteen months before she died. when faced with the inevitable, she achieved her lifelong wish to transcribe and record three of the Bach unaccompanied cello suites on the\_ viola, leaving us a novel and permaent insight into her unique vision. .:

Susan Margaret Bicknell, viola ... player: born Farnborough, Surre 5 August 1918; died London 22







# A. Leon Higginbotham

A. LEON HIGGINBOTHAM was one of United States on the eve of the Supreme the most distinguished American jurists of his generation. His life as a lawyer was devoted to advancing the cause of civil rights and racial integration. He personified that cohort of African Americans who came of age in in every section and region of America. the United States in the 1950s and 1960s when the Supreme Court decision in the case of Brown v Board of Education was revolutionising race relations.

Indeed, he was an outstanding example of the whole purpose of integration, which was to ensure that a black man or woman with the right stuff could enjoy the kind of career talented white Americans took for granted. Born in modest circumstances in Trenton, New Jersey in 1928, he went to segregated schools and won a place in a predominantly white college at Purdue, Indiana, in 1944.

Here he experienced the kind of crude anti-black discrimination routine in all parts of the United States at that time. Nevertheless, he graduated BA from Antioch in 1949 and took a law degree at Yale Law School, where he won academic awards, in 1952. Few black students at that time graduated from such prestigious institutions.

Seeking work as a lawyer in Philadelphia, he ran into serious discrimination for the first time. When one of the city's top law firms asked him to attend an interview, it was clear they had assumed at a Yale graduate named Higginstham would be white. The lawver who interviewed him agreed his credentials were impressive, but then added, "Of course, there's nothing I can do for you."

The "of course" was what hurt and what characterised race relations in the

Court's landmark decision in the Brown case, which was published in May 1954. This decision, in which the Court voted 9-0, declared segregated schools unconstitutional, undermining segregation not just in education in the South. but in housing, employment, politics and the law right across the nation

It took another 20 years for segregation to end, years of legal and political struggle historians call the civil rights movement, and in this struggle lawyers like Higginbotham played a crucial part. In 1954 he joined the Philadelphia law firm of Norris, Green, Harris & Higginbotham, became the city's assistant district attorney and then president of the Philadelphia chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which had led the struggle to undermine the legal basis of segregation in America since the 1920s.

serve on the Federal Communications Commission, He was 36. Three years later, Kennedy's successor, Lyndon Johnson, considered putting him on the United States Supreme Court in 1967 before naming Thurgood Marshall as the first African American to serve on the highest court in the nation.

Higginbotham remained an unambiguous champion of integration, which had to be enforced by law, but when Richard Nixon was president, between 1969 and 1975, such ideas fell out of favour. As a lawyer, teacher and legal scholar Higginbotham's influence continued to increase so that in 1977 Pres-

federal district court of appeals in Philadelphia, where he could rule on the constitutionality of civil cases.

This date was significant. In 1977-78 the US Supreme Court heard and decided the landmark case of Regents of the University of California v Bakka. In a divided and complicated decision the court ruled 5-4 that, contrary to the Brown decision 24 years earlier, educational discrimination in favour of blacks was still discrimination, and that preference systems or admission quotas to achieve racial balance on university courses were unconstitutional.

This saw the start of a generation in which positive discrimination, or affirmative action as it was known, came increasingly under attack, not least from black lawyers with conservative views, like Clarence Thomas, appointed by President Bush to the US Supreme Court to succeed Thurgood Marshall in 1991.

Two years earlier, Higginbotham had In 1964, President John Kennedy apbecome chief judge on the Philadelphia pointed him as the first black lawyer to appeals court and now enjoyed a wide reputation as scholar and lawyer. When Thomas's appointment was confirmed, after hearings in which it was alleged he had sexually harassed another black lawyer named Anita Hill, Higginbotham wrote a celebrated open letter to Thomas asking him to consider the historical roots from which American racism had grown, and emphasising the importance of law in defeating racial discrimination.

"I witnessed the birth of racial justice setts 14 December 1998.

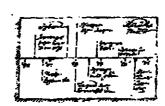
ident Jimmy Carter appointed him to the in the Supreme Court," Higginbotham explained in the New York Times magazine in January this year. "Now, after 45 years as a lawyer, judge and law professor, I sometimes feel as if I am watching justice die." This view was widely shared by other liberal Americans, whatever the colour of their skin.

> In his last years, Higginbotham's fame as a legal scholar and tireless advocate of civil rights increased. Thus in 1995 he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honour, while only two weeks before he died he was one of a handful of legal scholars asked to testify before the House Judiciary Committee about the proposed impeachment of President Clinton.

His advice, as in everything he said and wrote, was concise and clear. Even if Clinton had committed the perjury of which the Starr report indicted him, not all perjury was equal under the law. Lies about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky were more like lies to avoid a speeding ticket than lies about treason or bribery, which were impeachable offences. Perjury about something which was not even a misdemeanour could not justify removing a president from office. In the next few months we shall see whether Congress is as deaf to Leon Higginbotham's advice as Justice Thomas was to the advice he re-

PATRICK RENSHAW

Justice Thomas was deaf to such ar- Aloysius Leon Higginbothom, lawyer, guments, as were increasing numbers born Trenton, New Jersey 25 February of Americans. The era of universal ac- 1928; twice married (two sons, two ceptance of affirmative action was over daughters); died Boston, Massachu-



## HISTORICAL NOTES

PHYLLIS WILLMOTT

# Black stockings filled with goodies

MY MOTHER was born in 1892 in the front downstairs bedroom of an ancient thatched cottage in which many generations of agricultural families must have been born, lived out their lives and died. The cottage (which is no longer there) was in the centre of the Bedfordshire village of Blunham. Opposite stood - and still stands - the ancient church, surrounded by green grass and old tombstones. Along one side of its enclosing wall was the lane which led, under an avenue of lime

trees, to the banks of the Ivel. It was a setting that could not have changed much since Bunyan had applied on behalf of a villager he knew for a licence to preach there in the 17th century. The villager was named John Wright and Bunyan had earlier spent time with him in Bedford jail.

My mother's parents were not natives of Blunham, or even Bedfordshire. The couple had met and married in London where she was a nursery maid and he a platelayer on the railways. Their union produced 11 children, of whom my mother was the last but one. By the time she was born in the Blunham cottage her older brothers and sisters had already left home, which not only eased the sleeping arrangements (there was only one upstairs bedroom), but of course

meant fewer mouths to feed. It was partly for this reason, but also because her father

had regular and secure employment on the railways. that my mother could look back on what was for the times a relatively affluent childhood. Not sufficiently affluent, however, to be above joining in the gleaning with the other villagers after the harvest. In my mother's earliest years, some of the flour from the gleaning was used to make bread for the family, which was baked twice a week in the "second oven" of the village bakery. The kitchen range installed between the inglenooks of the oakbeamed fireplace was used for weekday dinners: boiled steak and kidney pudding with mashed potatoes and "greens", pork and onion suet roll, "duck-anothing" (baked chopped in preceding weeks. pork, rice and berbs) or "Bedfordshire clangers". And al-

ter pudding or boiled treacle pudding - to follow. It was a heavy diet in which little food came from outside the village, although as the century drew to a close some new foods - such as tinned salmon, treacle and Quaker Oats - appeared. Bananas were a rare treat brought by the brothers from London; lemons were "never seen in the house", and oranges were a once-a-year

ways a pudding - baked rice.

or more often bread and but-

One Christmas held a particularly vivid memory for my mother. From an early age she had suffered from bad earache, and on Christ-

Christmas luxury

mas Eve she was crying bitterly with the pain. It was late and her mother brought her downstairs, for her sisters Bertha and Florrie were trying to sleep in the children's bedroom upstairs. Everything was quiet until there was the noise of a cart rumbling by in the dark outside. "Listen!" said my grandmother to her sobbing daughter, "I do believe that could be Father Christmas!" Magically, this must have charmed away the pain, for the next my mother knew was waking in the morning to find her black stocking hanging at the end of the bed, filled with the orange, nuts, sweets and small presents smuggled into the cottage by the older children

Sadly, not everyone in those days could hope for black stockings filled with goodies. Poverty was as commonly the lot of agricultural labourers in Bedfordshire as in most other rural areas. My mother remembered that when the new potatoes came in from her father's allotment her mother would cook a large potful to put out on her doorstep for the less fortunate village children. In the winter she would fill her baking tins with jacket potatoes. From other accounts. it seems that this sort of help was not at all uncommon.

Phyllis Willmott is the author of From Rural East Anglia to Suburban London' (Institute of Community Studies, £9.50)

## CASE SUMMARIES

**21 DECEMBER 1998** 

between the parties to the

James Maxwell-Scott (E. Edwards

Son & Noice, (Iford) for the appel-

lant: John McGuinness (CPS. Wood

THE FOLLOWING notes of and swift communication fraudulent transactions yet to judgments were prepared by the reporters of the All England Law Reports.

R v Governor of Wandsworth

### Release dates

Prison, ex p Sorhaino; QBD (Div Ct) (Simon Brown LJ. Astill J) 14 Dec 1998. TIME SPENT in custody on remand for offence B, whilst also detained pursuant to a magistrates' court sentence for offence A, was not to be counted towards the serving of the sentence of imprisonment for offence B when the sentence for offence A was quashed on appeal before the defendant had been sentenced

to imprisonment for offence B. A sentence once quashed was not void ab initio; during the period of sentence A, therefore, the applicant was not in prison "only" by reason of an order of a court made in connection with any proceedings related to sentence B, as would be required by s 67(1A) of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 were that period of time to count towards sentence B. Peter Duffy QC. Rambert de Mello (Goodall Barnett James, Brighton) for the applicant; Eleanor Grey (Treasury Solicitor) for the respondent.

## Road traffic

DPP v McCarthy; QBD (Div Ct) (Simon Brown LJ, Astill J) 14 A DRIVER having been

required to stop following upon a road traffic act accident as defined by s 170(2) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 might give the address of a third party provided the address fulfilled the purposes of the sec-

meaning of to debase that this has sidelined its first.

Green! for the prosecution. **Evidence** McCauley v Hope (Carryl, third

accident.

party); CA (Butler-Sloss, Potter LJJ, Sir Patrick Russell) 8 Dec

WHERE A a plaintiff injured in a road traffic accident sought. in proceedings against the defendant, to rely on the defendant's conviction of driving without due care and attention, the plaintiff was not entitled to judgment under RSC Ord 14. The defendant, Ry Baker; CA (Crim Div) (Pill although admitting the conviction, alleged in reliance on an expert's report that it was erroneous. Section 11(2) of the Civil Evidence Act 1968 provided the clearest possible mandate to a defendant in a road traffic accident case to attack his earlier conviction. provided he had some good cause for so doing, and could discharge the burden of proof to the civil standard. The Ord 14 process was inappropriate in such a case since there were serious issues to be tried. Elizabeth Gumbel (David Saunders, Ashford) for the plaintiff: Ian McLaren QC, Douglas Herbert (E.

### Edwards Son & Noice. Tiford) for the

Dubai Aluminium Co Ltd v Al Alawi & ors; QBD, Commercial

be undertaken, as distinct from from the entirely legitimate professional business of advising or assisting clients on their past conduct, however iniquitous. Documents and reports generated by such criminal or fraudulent conduct which were relevant to issues in the case were, accordingly, discoverable, falling outside the legitimate area of legal professional privilege. Mark Pelling (Warner Cranston)

for the plaintiff: Clive Freedman QC. Alana Gourgey (Philippsohn Crawfords Brewalds for the first defendant.

## Sentencing

LJ, Turner J. Judge Rant QC) 15 Dec 1998.

When imposing a sentence longer than one commensurate with the seriousness of the offence in question in order to protect the public from serious harm from an offender pursuant to s 2(2)(b) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, the power of the court to order sentences to run consecutively was not limited. The expression "maximum permitted sentence" applied to the sentence for an individual offence, and provided that did not exceed the permitted maximum, there was no obstacle to aggregating other sentences which did not exceed that maximum. Moreover, there was no obstacle to exercising the power under s 2(2)(b) in an individual sentence imposed consecutively to another sentence on which that power had been exercised.

Michael Thoka (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant: Brian Allman (Treasury Solicitor)

## **Discovery**

Court (Rix J) 3 Dec 1998. Criminal or fraudulent conduct undertaken for the purposes of litigation fell on the same side of the line as advistion, which was to enable easy ing on or setting up criminal or as amicus curiae.

#### WORDS CHRISTOPHER

**HAWTREE** degrade, v.

ousting. Massinger later wrote of the way in which "thou dost degrade thyself

each case, the OED last cites Jowett and Cardinal Newman, which is lofty company for any President. Incidentally, whenever Clinton attends a fundrais-

ancestors left thee." In

er at the Sheraton New York. he uses the side-entrance: surely a perilous photo-opportunity: it is hard by the medieval sense of taking of all the honours Thy 53rd Street Cigar Bar.

# GAZETTE

## BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

### **DEATHS**

NORBERT-MILLER: Hannah NORBERT-MILLER: Hannah, born in Vienna on 25 February 1916, died peacefully in London after a short iliness on 17 December. Daughter of Otto and Erna Nussbaum, loving wife of the late Martin Miller and wonderful mother of Daniel. She will be greatly missed by those who knew, loved and were inspired by her. Donations to Help the Aged. For further information call 0181 302 8008.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

incements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announce ments (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) are charged at £10 a

#### BIRTHDAYS Mr Alexander Bennett, former chairman. Whitbread

and Co, 85; Air Commandant Dame Jean Bromet, former Director of the WRAF, 86; Mr Basil Collins, former chairman, Nabisco, 75; Mrs Chris Evert-Lloyd. tennis champion, 44; Miss Jane Fonda, actress, 61; Sir James Hill, former MP, 72; Mr Peter Johnson, headmaster, Wrekin College, 51; Sir Frederick Lawton, former Appeal Court judge, 87; Mr Albert Lee, rock guitarist, 55; Mr Geoff Lewis, horse-racing trainer, 63: Mr Wyndham Milligan, former principal, Wolsey Hall, Oxford, 91; Mr Steve Perryman, footballer, 47; Mr Anthony Powell CH, novelist, 93; Mr John Quayle, actor, 60; Sir John Quinton, former chairman, Barclays Bank, 69; Flight Lieut William Reid VC, 77; Brigadier Vera Rooke, former director, Army Nursing Services, 74; Mr Walter Spanghero, rugby player, 55; Mr Greville Starkey, former jockey, 59; Mr Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor, 54: Mr Peter Tinniswood,

playwright, 62; Sir Cyril

Townsend, former MR 61:

Mr Doug Walters, cricketer,

53; Dr Alan Wynne Williams

MP, 53; Professor Robert Worcester, chairman, Market & Opinion Research International, 65.

ANNIVERSARIES Births: Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1118; Masaccio (Tommaso di Giovanni), Florentine painter, 1401; Mathurin Regnier, French satirical poet, 1573; Jean Racine, French playwright, 1639; Benoit-Tranquille Berbiguier, French flautist and compos er, 1782; Dr Robert Moffat, Scottish missionary and traveller, 1795; Leopold von Ranke, German historian. 1795; Sir Joseph Whitworth Bt, mechanical engineer, 1803; Benjamin Disraeli, First Earl of Beaconsfield, statesman, 1804; Thomas Couture, French painter, 1815; Prince Peter Alekseyevich Kropotkin, Russian anarchist revolutionary and geographer, 1842; Nathaniel (Nat) Gould, racing novelist, 1857; Josef Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili (Joseph Stalin), Soviet leader, 1879; Walter Charles Hagen, golf champion, 1892; Leroy Robertson, composer, 1896; Harry Revel, popular composer and

Hampson, creator of "Dan Dare", 1918.

Deaths: Giovanni Boccaccio, Italian author, 1375; Vicente Joanes, Spanish painter, 1579; Catherine of Braganza, consort of King Charles II, 1705; Bernard de Montfaucon. French critic and classicai scholar, 1741; James Parkinson, surgeon and palaeontologist, 1824; Niels Wilhelm Gade, Danish composer, 1890; Walter Hines Page, ambassador and editor, 1918; Frank Billings Kellogg, politician, 1937: Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald, novelist, 1940; General George Smith Patton, military leader, 1945; Lewis Terman, psychologist, 1956; Lion Feuchtwanger, German novelist and playwright, 1958; Sir (Jack) John Berry Hobbs, cricketer. 1963.

On this day: Richard Coeur de Lion was captured by the Duke of Austria, 1192; the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock in North America, 1620; in North America, the Boston Gazette was first issued, 1719; paper money called assignats were issued in France, 1789; the first co-operative store was opened in Rochdale, 1844; anaesthetics were used for the first time in Britain (by Robert Liston), 1846;

Charley's Aunt, the farce by Brandon Thomas, was first performed, 1892; the Port of London Authority was inaugurated, 1908; after a colliery disaster at Pretoria Pit, Bolton, 344 lives were lost, 1910; the first newspaper to publish a crossword puzzle was the New York World. This was compiled by Liverpool-born Arthur Wynne. 1913; the premiere of the first full-length full-colour animated cartoon (Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs) by Walt Disney, took place, 1935; General Charles de Gaulle was elected president of the French Fifth Republic, 1958; the first flight of Man around the moon took place when Apollo 8 was launched, 1969.

Today is the Feast Day of St Anastasius II of Antioch, St Glycerius, St John Vincent, St Peter Canisius and Saints Themistocles & Dioscorus.

### LECTURES

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S Victoria and Albert Museum: Valerie Holman, "Victorepeated assertion about rian Painting", 2pm. an air-strike "to degrade" Children's Christmas Lec-Saddam Hussein might ture at the Royal Society of sound curious to some Arts, London WC2: Dr ears. After all, the despot Richard Wiseman, "Do You Believe in Magic?", 2.30pm. could hardly be any more base. In fact, the verb has been so consumed by its

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pianist, 1905; Heinrich Böll,

German author, 1917; Frank

# A mother's greatest sacrifice

Sister Mary Joseph
didn't have a vision or hear

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voices when I got the calling. Something just quietly changed in my life. I used to be quite materialistic and loved shopping, especially for clothes. But suddenly all these things seemed completely unimportant. I was brought up in a Catholic home with 10 brothers and sisters but I wouldn't say I was particularly religious. I went to Mass every week and said my prayers but in my teens I was just like any other normal young girl. I wanted to leave school, go to university and get a life. I did quite well at school and got into Birmingham University, where I studied law. After that I joined a legal practice and began my

law training.
It was after I had been on a trip to Lourdes with my mum that I started to feel differently. She had always wanted to go so it was a bit of a trip of a lifetime for her but I didn't really think much about it. After I came back and returned to work I started going to Mass in my lunch hour, which was pretty weird for me. The feeling started to grow inside me that perhaps I was really cut out for a religious life.

At first I thought it was a phase and that it would pass. I started praying for guidance and went to see my local priest to get advice. I thought I would get some kind of sign or proof priest said if I was waiting for a fax quite a long time before I was really sure about it.

else because I am so sure I have cho-everything was revealed.

sen the right way of life for me. Whereas my motivation before was to earn money and have a good time, now it is to love God and serve the Church, I don't miss anything about my old life, neither do I feel that my

freedom has been curbed. Of course, I miss my mum and I will be thinking of her at Christmas but I am so involved in the life of the convent I don't have time to dwell on life outside. I have my own room with a bed, a desk and my books. I never

I get up at five in the morning. work hard at my housekeeping duties all day and go to bed at around 8.30pm. The days and weeks literally fly by - this will be my third Christmas in the convent.

Before I joined and I was thinking everything through, it did cross my mind that I would never marry and have children, which was a shame because I love children - particularly babies.

But if you have a vocation. God does give you the strength to cope. Instead of having children of my own I have got thousands of children in a spiritual sense. In the convent, we are like spiritual mothers, praying for the souls of all the children in the world.

There is a real sense of sisterhood in here. I feel that this is now my family because we all have that spiritual union and devotion to Christ.

I believe that God has a special that I was on the right track. The path for everyone and, at some point in any young Catholic's life, from heaven I'd have a long wait as they question themselves and ask God doesn't send faxes! So it was whether they want to become a priest or a nun.

It wasn't a difficult choice for me It has never occurred to me that in the end because things seemed I may have made the wrong decision. to miraculously fall into place. All I I never feel I want to be anywhere did was pray for discernment and

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Three years ago Geraldine McGrory, 28, became a novice in the enclosed Benedictine order at Tyburn Convent in London where she is called Sister Mary Joseph. Her mother, Margaret McGrory, is a housewife and has 11 children. She lives in a suburb of Birmingham



A child of God: Sister Mary Joseph and her mother Margaret

had very high hopes for Geraldine because she was a very clever child. She was top of her class in everything at school. When she went to university to study law we were all so proud of her. She did well at law college and then began her job in a solicitor's office. She seemed to really enjoy her working life - she was very popular and made friends easily.

About three y ars ago Geraldine came home to visit for the weekend. She seemed quieter than usual and after a while she told us she had decided to enter an enclosed convent. She said she had thought long and hard about it but she was sure that was what she wanted to do with her life.

At first it was a bit of a shock, and I would never have told ber but there was a part of me that was a little bit disappointed because of what she was giving up. I felt she had a good career and could go far. But I do feel very strongly that children should follow their own path in life, so I was also immensely proud of her. In a Catholic family as big as ours it's considered almost an honour if one of your children gets the calling. I suppose you could say that I had secretly harboured some hopes that one of mine would have a vocation.

Although we are a very strong Catholic family and go to church every week, none of our other children has ever shown the slightest desire to go into the Church. In fact, they were probably more shocked about Geraldine's decision than I was. They had never come into contact with nuns and, like many people who only ever see them on the television, probably thought of them as figures of fun. Now that they have seen her way of life they really

appreciate what she is doing. I missed Geraldine dreadfully

when she first went in. I still keep her bedroom just as she left it. Some people might think it's like a shrine to her. But it doesn't feel like that. I never entertained any hopes that she would come back but I just couldn't bring myself to change anything. Her books are arranged just as they were. I go in now and then and sit quietly and have a read. It makes me feel close to her.

It's hard for any mother to come to terms with the fact that their daughter is miles away and can't just get away when she wants. I can't just pop up and see her for a cup of tea when I want to. I can't phone her up for a chat like other mothers do. But I do respect the fact that she has given herself to the religious life and. although our relationship is now quite restrictive, it is worth any sacrifices I have had to make. We visit her once a month and she writes us lovely letters.

There is an inner happiness about Geraldine now that I can't explain. Looking back, I think she was probably quite stressed when she was working. She worried endlessly about the state of the world. She felt she wanted to do something positive to help. She really has a very strong belief that dedicating her life to God will make a difference. Convent life suits her very well. She is full of joy and although I know that if she decided tomorrow that she had chosen the wrong path she could leave, I don't think she will. She is very strong-willed and knows her own mind. But if she ever changed her mind she knows that we will always be there for her and support

INTERVIEWS BY LIZ BESTIC

# Why Christmas always turkeys in America

ONE OF the many small mysteries I hoped to resolve when I first moved to England was this: when British people sang "A-Wassailing We'll Go". where was it they went, and what exactly did they do when they got there?

Throughout an American upbringing I heard this song every Christmas without ever finding anyone who had the faintest idea of how to go about the obscure and enigmatic business of wassailing. Given the perky lilt of the carol and the party spirit in which it was always sung, it suggested to my vouthful imagination rosycheeked wenches bearing flagons of ale in a scene of general merriment and abandon before a blazing yule log in a hall decked with holly – and, with this in mind, I looked forward to my first English Christmas with a certain frank anticipation. In my house, the most exciting thing you could hope for in the way of seasonal recklessness was being offered a cookie shaped like a Christmas tree.

So you may conceive my disappointment when my first Christmas in England came and went and not only was there no wassailing to be seen, but no one I quizzed was any the wiser as to its arcane and venerable secrets. In fact, in nearly 20 years in England I never did find anyone who had ever gone a-wassailing, at least not knowingly. Nor. while we are at it. did I encounter anv mumming. still less any hodening a kind of organised group begging for coins with a view to buying drinks at the nearest public house, which I think is an outstanding idea), or many of the other traditions of an English

promised in the lyrics of carols and the novels of Jane Austen and Charles Dickens. It wasn't until I happened on a copy of TG Crippen's scholarly and ageless Christmas and Christmas Lore, published in London in 1923, that I finally found that wassail was originally a salutation. From the Old Norse ves heil it means "in good

health". In Angio-Saxon times,

Christmas that were expressly

according to Crippen, it was customary for someone offering a drink to say "Wassail!" and for the recipient to respond "Drinkhail!" and for the participants to repeat the exercise until comfortably horizontal

It is clear from Crippen's tome that in 1923 this and many other agreeable Christmas customs were still commonly encountered in Britain. Now, alas, they appear to be gone for good.

Even so, Christmas in Britain is wonderful, far better than in America, and for all kinds of reasons. To begin with, in Britain – or at least in England – you still pretty much pack all your festive excesses (eating, drinking, giftgiving, more eating and drinking) into Christmas, whereas we in America spread ours out over three separate holidays.

In America, the big eating holiday is Thanksgiving, at the end of November. Thanksgiving is a great holiday - probably the very best holiday in America, if you ask me. (In case you've always wondered, it



commemorates the first harvest feast at which the pilgrims sat down with the Indians to thank them for all their help and tell them: "Oh, and by the way, we've decided we want the whole country.") It is a great holiday because you don't have to give gifts or send cards or do anything but eat until you begin to look like a balloon that has been left on a helium machine too long.

The trouble is that it comes less than a month before Christmas. So when, on 25 December, Mom brings out another turkey, you don't go,

"Turkey! YTPPEEE!" but rather. "Ah, turkey again is it, Mother?" Under such an arrangement Christmas dinner is bound to

come as an anticlimax. Also. Americans don't drink much at Christmas, as a rule. Indeed. I suspect most people in America would think it faintly unseemly to imbibe anything more than, say, a small sherry before lunch on Christmas Day. Americans save their large-scale drinking for New Year's Eve.

Nor, come to that, do we have many of the standard features of Christmas that you take for granted. There are no Christmas pantomimes in America. No mince pies, and hardly any Christmas puddings. There's no bell-ringing on Christmas Eve. No crackers. No big double issue of the Radio Times. No brandy butter. No little dishes full of nuts. No hearing "Merry Xmas Everybody by Slade at least once every 20 minutes. Above al'

there is no Boxing Day. On 26 December, everybody in the United States goes back to work. In fact, Christmas as a

noticeable phenomenon pretty well ends about midday on 25 December. There's nothing special on TV, and most large stores and shopping malls now open for the afternoon (so that people can exchange all the things they got but didn't want). You can go to the movies on Christmas Day in America. You can go bowling. It doesn't seem right somehow.

As for Boxing Day, most people in America have never heard of it or, at best, have only the vaguest idea of what it is. It may surprise you to hear. incidentally, that Boxing Day is actually quite a modern invention. The Oxford English Dictionary can trace the term back no further than 1849. Its roots go back at least to medieval times, when it was the custom to break open church alms boxes at Christmas and distribute the contents to the poor, but as a holiday Boxing Day

and are don't. Personally, I much prefer

only dates from the last century.

which explains why you have it

because it has all the advantages of Christmas (lots of food and drink, general good will towards all, a chance to doze in an armchair during daylight hours) without any of the disadvantages - like spending hours on the floor trying to assemble doll's houses and bicycles from instructions written in Taiwan, or the uttering of false professions of gratitude to Aunt Gladys for a hand-knitted

Boxing Day to Christmas, largely

jumper that even Gyles Brandreth wouldn't wear. ("No honestly, Glad, I've been looking everywhere for a jumper with a unicorn motif.") No, if there is one thing I miss

from England it's Boxing Day. That and, of course, hearing "Merry Xmas Everybody" by Slade over and over. Apart from anything else, it makes you appreciate the rest of the year so much more.

Extracted from Notes from a Big Country', published by Doubleday at £16.99. At all major book shops or by mail-order on 01624 675137

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Will it affect you? What does it mean? Most equipment and software contain

microprocessors which rely on dates to function correctly. The millennium bug is the term used to describe the potential difficulties that computer and electronic equipment will have in handling the date change on 1 January 2000. The problem originated in the Sixties and Seventies when computer programmers, to save memory space, adopted the practice of referring to years by their last two digits

rather than "1998". As a consequence, some computers will not be able to tell the difference between the year 2000 and the year 1900, because both figures have 00 as their last two digits. This could mean that some computers and electronic equipment will produce meaningless information or fail at the millennium. Most new products contain chips that

rather than by all four: "98",

What may be affected? Time is ticking away inside personal computers, mainframes and electronic systems all over the world and, as most areas of modern life are affected by IT. no one knows how great the impact will be, which is why the Government is

do recognise 2000.

## **INFORMATION UNLIMITED** ALL THE FACTS YOU NEED TO AVOID HEARTACHE

trying to get everyone to take preventative action. Electronic equipment such as telephones, fax machines, photocopiers, fire alarms, security systems, medical equipment, air conditioning, heating

systems, drainage, water, sewerage and lifts can all contain microprocessors which may be affected by the date change. Organisations which depend on services such as water, gas and electricity may be affected by failures in their supply chain even if their own internal systems

What you can do Most problems will occur around the millennium date change. The Government has set up a scheme called Action 2000 to prepare businesses and consumers for the millennium. Call them for further advice on measures to be taken on 0845 6012000. Contact your employer, bank, insurer, GP and anyone else who holds computer records of your affairs and ask them how they will be tackling

are 2000-compliant.

the problem. ■ Keep your financial papers in order for 1999. Keep a record (dates and amounts) of wage payments, direct debits,

NO 19: THE MILLENNIUM BUG mortgage repayments and policy renewal dates which

you will be able to refer back to if you have a problem in 2000. If you have a credit card with "00" expiry date, keep all your transaction slips from now on and check them regularly against your statements.

■ Call your gas and electricity suppliers and ask them what measures they are taking. Keep your utility bills so that you have proof of meter readings, in case there are problems with billing in 2000.

Does insurance cover it?

Policies are designed to cover the unforeseen and the unpredictable - the millennium is foreseeable and predictable, though some of the consequences are not. Speak to your insurance company if you are concerned and check if they have any exclusions, as these may start to appear in 1999. For general advice, call the Association for British Insurers on 0171-600 3333.

Household insurance: it is unlikely that your policy will cover individual items which malfunction. It will be seen as the manufacturer's responsibility to insure that their products are

millennium-compliant. However, if your heating broke down and your pipes froze and burst, they would probably meet the cost of repair, because burst pipes could not have been predicted, but it is best to

phone them and check. Travel insurance should be checked closer to 2000 to cover against delays, lost luggage or cancellations.

The "home check!" pack from Action 2000 gives instructions on how to check the internal clock on certain products in your home such as VCRs. By setting the clock to roll from 1999 to 2000 you can see if it recognises the date change.

The Action 2000 website www.bug2000.co.uk. lists the top 100 software packages for personal computers and tells you how they might be affected. If you discover that any products are not year 2000-compatible, get in touch with your retailer.

Further information The Consumers Association would be interested to know if you have experienced any problems with products or services as a result of the millennium bug. Call 0645 830232 if you have had a problem with a product, or 0645 830234 if you have had a problem with a service.

Compiled by the authors of Women Unlimited: The Directory for Life'

published by Penguin, £9.99

# The king of St Helens

The Johnny Vegas Television Show is about to arrive in your living room. It's the most instantly legendary comedy moment since Father Ted. By Ben Thompson

Vegas live, you will need to be convinced that a 28-yearold failed potter can mould an audience in his hands with the suppleness and application of a master craftsman. By sheer force of personality, this emotional volcano from St Helens - his fleshy slopes tattooed with rivulets of beer, sweat and clay - persuades women to let him kiss them and men to give him their designer shirts to clothe his nakedness. He reflects people's anxiety back at them through the distorting mirror of his own desperation, and they watch spellbound as he overcomes the class divide with an uplifting chorus of the "Hokey Cokey".

Even those who have seen Johnny Vegas bend a crowd to his will might still be wondering how he can successfully transfer to TV, where the key element of the Vegas live experience - the fact that the audience are shut in a room with him and can't escape because they've paid - is no longer a factor. Furthermore, in small screen terms, several aspects of the Vegas

persona look naggingly familiar. The travails of bottom flight showbusiness have already been explored by such able prospectors as Tommy Cockles, John Shuttleworth and Alan Partridge. The thin line between acting drunk and actually being drunk is hardly new ground either. But the rich ore Vegas extracts is all the more valuable for coming from such a well-mined seam. And the one-off début of The Johnny Vegas Television Show (with a series to follow some time next year) is the most instantly legendary

f you've never seen Johnny TV comedy moment since the first episode of Father Ted. Think Les Dawson at his best, think John Kennedy Toole's literary masterpiece Confederacy of Dunces translated to a small northern boating lake, think a blow-up model of Jonathan Creek's Alan Davies being inflated by an automatic balloon pump. The Johnny Vegas Television Show suggests all these things.

Resplendently out of place in a bustling west London champagne bar, Johnny Vegas's representative on earth - 28-year-old failed potter Michael Pennington - reflects on all the different ways it could have gone wrong. More sober in dress and demeanour than his flamboyantly flared and car-coated creation, Pennington shares Vegas's gift for rhetoric, and his Lancashire accent is as rich as a well-made Eccles cake.

"The question was, how did we get Johnny on TV without making him a TV person?" Pennington says. "We didn't want to make a mock documentary. This is how he lives. We didn't want to do a stand-up show, because Johnny Vegas is not a presenter: he's a very sad bloke who lives on his own who's an alcoholic. Every now and then he ventures into

the world and he's very, very bitter." The reason The Johnny Vegas Television Show succeeds where so many other attempts to translate Edinburgh Festival hits to TV have failed, is that it manages to establish its own integrity rather than shoehorning a well-honed club act into an inappropriate new format

"This is the dark years," Pennington explains, "the bit that never

The cameras follow Vegas around his hometown of St Helens with occasional flashbacks to his glory days at Butlin's in Skegness.

"I never wanted personally to laugh at St Helens," Pennington insists, "because I live there, but this is the only place on earth where Johnny can exist: when we were filming, nobody said: 'What are you doing stood there looking like that?" All we'd get was: 'I haven't got time,'
or: 'Sorry son, I think you're drunk.'"

We see Johnny hassling a hapless entertainments secretary at his local labour club. Johnny hassling an ice cream man, Johnny chased by a kite.

"There's something of a care-inthe-community element to it." Pennington explains, "You look at Johnny and think: Why is somebody not looking after him during the day?" The feeling we wanted to get was: 'You shouldn't be laughing at this, but... Some people think it's too dark, but it couldn't be too dark."

Almost as compelling as Vegas's whirtpool of misplaced moral energy ("I deserve to be loved!") is the unforced naturalism of the people he comes up against. The secret of The Johnny Vegas Show's imposingly realistic collection of ice cream men and park keepers is that they are ice cream men and park keepers.

"People have said: 'What's he been in before? I know I've seen him in something,' And we're like: 'You haven't, he's an ice cream man from St Helens.'

If Pennington's primary motivation was not so obviously compassion, there might be a hint of Jeremy Beadle in all this. As it is, The Johnny Vegas Television Show offers



Johnny Vegas: 'Every now and then he ventures into the world and he's very, very bitter

us not just a welcome riposte to the endless search for "characters" in documentary series whose intermingling of show-business and reality is demeaning to both, but also a revolution in TV's approach to the ordinary. "There's somebody like Johnny in everybody's community," Pennington insists. "This person talking to you who you think is a nutter quite possibly was Butlins boy number one at some point - all he wanted to do was make people happy and he's been denied that."

Would it be fair to suggest there like someone else. It's like you're in might be a political element to all of a shop and you can't afford the stuff, this? "I'd like to think it's a commentary, without being a lecture."

so you look at a teapot and think: 'T'll

go home and make my own, and you

do it and it looks nothing like the one

you wanted, so why waste your

making a teapot of your own?"

it's a lovely piece of work.

time? Why not put your energy into

That teapot is on display now, and

'The Johnny Vegas Television Show'

is on Channel 4 this Sunday, 27

Perhaps this is why, where other comedians talk in terms of being true to comic traditions - Peter Sellers or Monty Python or whoever -Pennington talks about his work in terms of being true to the spirit of people in pubs. He stopped watching other people's comedy when he started to do his own.

"I'm always wary of aspiring to be December, at 10.30pm

Week That Was

THIS WAS THE

Today In 1937 the first fulllength colour cartoon was premièred: Disney's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, which six decades later is still turning up at a multiplex near you. (Unlike Peludopolis, the first blackand-white cartoon talkie, a political satire on a forgotten president of Argentina.)

Tomorrow The first revolving stage began whizzing around in 1758; wisely. it was extremely small-scale, at Kado-za Doll Theatre, Osaka, Japan.

**Wednesday** In 1888 the big news in art was that Van Gogh cut off his ear; he was depressed, not least because Gauguin was leaving their lodgings in Arles to escape the winter and possibly Vincent's company).

Christmas Eve In 1922 The Truth about Father Christmas, the first play written for the wireless, by Phyllis M Twigg, became a branch of radio history. In 1974 the Christmas spirit did not extend to The Beatles; the Fab Four became four Fab Ones.

Christmas Day It wasn't until 1843 that Mitchell's Olympic Theatre in New York worked out what to do with a stage empty all day: they put on a matinée.

Boxing Day Britain's first ever pantomime was Harlequin Executed, at Lincoln's Inn Fields Theatre in 1717. Oh no it wasn't! Oh yes it was!

Sunday in 1904 Peter Pan opened in London, with Gerald du Maurier as Captain Hook. In Dublin the first state-subsidised theatre, the Abbey. presented plays by Lady Gregory and Mr Yeats. JONATHAN SALE



Subject: greetings from Rome

To: mum@falk21.com

From: hamish@talk21.com

To: mum@talk21.com

Subject: greetings from Athens

TP 49

From: hamish@talk21.com

Subject: greetings from Amsterdam

# The links that will revolutionise PCs

Faster access to the Internet plus cheap and efficient networking could radically alter the way we use computers. By Stephen Pritchard

he home of the future will be as connected, or perhaps even better connected, than most of today's offices, if the predictions of president and chief executive officer, prove to be true. 3Com is one of the world leaders in computer networking equipment and, since its purchase of US Robotics last year, in moderns, too. According to market research, 3Com is one of the most recognised computing brands in the United States. The company's public perception ranks alongside Hewlett-Packard - and even above that of Microsoft.

3Com was founded in 1979 in California; the company pioneered the ethernet networking standard. Ethernet is now used in offices worldwide, but in 1979, the idea of a PC, let alone a group of PCs that could share information, was very much in its infancy. In the last two decades, computer networks have become big business. Cheap and efficient networking helped the PC take on mainframe computers, and win. More recently, computer networks, in the form of the Internet, have started to capture the public imagination. The Net provides companies such as 3Com with an enormous, uncaptured market.

Computer users' desires for faster, smoother Internet access is a key driver of 3Com's success. The company has been at the forefront of developing more powerful modem technologies. Today's 56k modems are four times as fast as the standard modern three years ago, but they cost less. 3Com is heavily involved in developing devices to connect computers to cable networks. emerging technologies such as DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) and ISDN. It also makes connectors for GSM mobile phones and the RAM wireless data network. "The demand for faster Internet access is driven by many of the same are streaming audio and video. either video conferencing, or video on detions on the Internet today broadcasting audio content. With faster connections. sites that stream CD-quality audio into the home in the background while you're surfing the Web or e-mailing."

DSL including the version BT is currently testing in west London, is an "always on" technology. Computers are permanently connected to the Internet. and there are no time-based charges for that connection. This feature, Mr Benhamou believes, will open up the real potential of the Internet for homes. "The Internet becomes far more compelling with persistent connections," he says.

Faster access, suggests Mr Benhamou, will encourage us to rethink the way we use our computers, and the way they talk to each other. In developed computer markets, such as the United States, Germany and the UK, Benhamou points out, there are already multi-PC households. Sometimes this is



Eric Benhamou predicts falling PC prices will increase the Internet's popularity

work from home. Sometimes, households upgrade, but keep their old PCs. Sometimes it stems from adults wanting to reclaim the PC from their kids. of PCs sold through retailers go into homes that already have a computer.

It makes far more sense to connect tachments. Web browsing, and re-ternet through a single, powerful consearch," Mr Benhamou says. "Some of nection than by attaching a relatively the new applications that come to life slow modern to each PC and a phone line. It is also much more economical. BT's trial, for example, costs £30 a mand. There are over 10,000 radio sta-month for connection and the hardware. 3Com's solution to sharing that bandwidth - or the comparable technology it's likely that we will see digital audio from cable companies - is through a mini-network in the home. Mr Benhamou points to an increasing number of property developers who are building flexible network cables into their house designs in the US and Europe. 3Com is also a key member of consortia that are developing networking tech-nologies that will deliver either 1Mbps or 10Mbps - the same speed as ethernet - over domestic phone cables or mains electric wiring. Mr Benhamou expects products to hit the market in 1999.

and prices to start at little more than \$20. "Home networking can deliver on this tremendous opportunity for multi-PC households to share files, peripherals and an Internet connection via low-cost networking solutions," Mr Benhamou says. "Our HomeConnect brand will deliver products that allow multi-PC connectivity within the home and out to the

because one or more family members - Internet, enabling a range of new applications like streaming multimedia.

Mr Benhamou predicts that falling PC prices will help the Internet to reach more homes, but his vision is not 3Com estimates that around 60 per cent restricted to PCs. Away from the business market, developments such as Internet-based broadcasting or video on demand will encourage households to of Internet access devices that bear little resemblance to conventional PCs.

> There are over 10.000 radio stations on the Internet today broadcasting audio content

Mr Benhamou believes the jury is still out on concepts such as Microsoftbacked web TV, but he can see the huge potential of devices which deliver Internet connectivity to the home TV set, especially for applications such as electronic banking or travel bookings. As important, he predicts, will be advances based around the telephone and handheld computers. 3Com is already the leader in the palmtop market with its Palm range of "connected organisers".

In July this year, 3Com entered into an alliance with Siemens, creating a joint venture that will integrate computer that matter to them."

communications with telephony. The Siemens alliance gives 3Com valuable access to technologies more often associated with telecommunications. The joint venture is developing systems that integrate data, voice and video over single petworks.

Phone handsets will become in creasingly important ways to access the displays offer a low-cost way to connect households, especially to e-mail. Mobile phones will play their part, as will integrated mobile devices. In the US, 3Com has just announced the Palro 7, which has built-in access to the RAM network. In Europe, there will be a version built around GSM, and 3Com expects to develop organisers based around the Blue Tooth wireless communications system that is backed by companies suckers Intel, TDK and Nokia.

The home network becomes the platform for these devices co-existing within the home," says Mr Benhamou. "We anticipate that set-top boxes, smartphones, PCs and devices like the Palm will have network connections that will allow them to share information and Internet access within the home. "Think of what happened with electricity," he adds. "No one imagined they'd have hair-dryers or toasters when they wired the early homes. But the utility of power caused technology to take advantage of electricity. With an enabling "utility" like a home network, appliances will spring up to keep consumers more connected to the people and information

#### **BYTES** ANDY OLDFIELD

new secure method of distributing music over the Internet was announced last week in New York by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA); chief executives of the major US record firms, and representatives of technology firms such as AOL (which now owns CompuServe), Diamond Multimedia, Microsoft, RealNetworks, IBM and AT&T Work on the "Secure

AN INITIATIVE to develop a

Digital Music Initiative" is set to get under way next year and will address the lack of compatibility between current competing technologies such as Liquid Audio and a2b, as well as the potential piracy problems and lack of copyright control associated with the de facto standard MP3 that is established among Net users.

The new standard will aim at developing a means of digital distribution to protect copyrighted material and allow labels and artists to engage in online commerce.

Record company executives said they did not envisage the new format bringing about lower prices.

However, some

companies said that the industry response to MP3 is too little and too late. "MP3 is unstoppable. Any initiative now is like launching Betamax two years after VHS has become the standard," said Robert Kohn, the chairman of the independent music company, Goodnoise. "The real solution to piracy is to make music cheaper to buy than it is to steal."

THE JUDGE presiding over the Microsoft anti-trust trial in Washington said last week that AOL's proposed \$4.2bn buy-out of Netscape Communications and its cooperative deal with Sun Microsystems may have an "immediate effect" on the case. Microsoft's lawyers requested that, in light of the proposed merger, the judge re-open the evidencegathering phase of the trial.

Judge Thomas Penfield

Jackson said he was

reluctant to allow this, but suggested instead that Microsoft be given a look at any documents gathered by the government in a review of the merger.

"It seems the Department of Justice would be in possession of the operative documents (for the merger) and that Microsoft may have a right to review the terms, Jackson said. "It could have an immediate affect on the definition of the market as we are contemplating it here.

In a separate court case, Microsoft said it will appeal against a preliminary injunction requiring it to modify or withdraw some software products while it fights the lawsuit brought against it by Sun over its use of the Java programming language.

TALKS IN London between US Commerce Department and State Department officials and members of Privacy International (PI), a civil rights group based in the United Kingdom and

Washington, about an EU privacy directive, ended in stalemate last week. The directive, set to become law in all EU states, will give individuals control over their personal data and stop database-marketers, websites, credit card companies and others from exchanging personal data with countries that do not provide "adequate" protection of the data.

To prevent US

companies' data transfers from being halted by the EU, the Clinton administration has proposed "safe harbours". based on self-regulation privacy guidelines used by commercial sites, such as notifying people about policies on collecting data; providing "opt out" facilities, and disclosing to whom the firm passes on the data. PI said the plans were not satisfactory and that Europe should not bend the rules to accommodate the US.

3Dfx INTERACTIVE, the games chip manufacturer.

announced that it will buy the graphics-card maker STB for \$141m. The deal is expected to be finalised in March. STB's operations will remain based in Richardson, Texas, with the combined company headquarters at 3Dfx's office in San Jose, California.

3Dfx said that William Ogle, the president and chief executive of STB. would join its board. Gordon Campbell will remain as chairman of 3Dfx.

Following the purchase, the company will manufacture entire 3D accelerator cards, rather than just the graphics chips. A new board based on its Voodoo3 chip will be produced. 3Dfx said the deal would provide its customers with a single source for its 3D graphics technology.

Although it intends to carry on supplying chips to Quantum 3D, which makes cards for arcade machines, it will probably stop supplying other PC card producers such as Creative and Diamond.



Dancer DNA blends an ultra-Darwinist theory with high-speed computer graphics

# Morphing to the sound of a hi-hat

Virtual DNA is the inspiration behind a new graphics package. By Matt Jones

However, with their powerful graphics capabilities, they are now branching out into the entertainment side - not as games machines but alongside the light and laser systems of a club's visual arsenal.

Dancer DNA is a new software package that uses a "virtual DNA" string to create sponse to music. Hooked up to a sound system and projector, it provides a mesmerising lightshow that is a perfect complement to the sensory overload of the leading London clubs.

What is most surprising, though is that the inspiration from some hardcore clubber but from the leading evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins, who was collaborating on a multimedia CD with Dancer DNA's creators. Notting Hill Publishing, the electronic publishing company created by Andreas Whittam Smith, the founder and former editor of this newspaper.

In The Blind Watchmaker Dawkins theorised that human

DNA and the binary information storage systems used by a computer were very similar. "Instead of just the two states 1 and 0, the information techstates... There is very little difference, in principle, between a two-state binary information technology like ours, and a four-state information technology like that of the living cell."

Dancer DNA blends this ultra-Darwinist theory with high-speed computer graphics. Just about everything is customisable, from a creature's rate of morphing and spin to the threshold at which the effects take hold. A frequency analyser

ferent parts of the music that it responds to (hi-hats, vocals, bass, etc) to trigger different effects, so the package can be pronology of living cells uses four grammed to accompany certain tracks. Dance music, with its defined peaks and troughs, is the ideal soundtrack to Dancer DNA; although it gave interesting results with many other genres, including heavy metal and country and western - as demonstrated at a recent show

> at the ICA in London. There are 15 species provided on the CD, with more available from the Dancer DNA website. A few mouse clicks creates a "genespace" for your species and gets them dancing

your CD drive. Customising the species couldn't be easier the cut'n'paste method ensures that new strains can be easily created and mutated.

Dancer DNA has already Blue Note, Orb and the End clubs in London, as well as on the BBC's Clothes Show, and is set to perform alongside New Order and Underworld at the Alexandra Palace New Year's Eve spectacular. Entertainment from evolutionary theory - who would have thought it?

Dancer DNA (www.dancerdna.com). £19.99; order on 01634 297123

# The case of the empty e-mail

THERE IT was, again, in my e-mail inbox. For the fourth time in a few weeks, here was an e-mail with no

subject or message text. Like most people, I'm not fond of spammers. In fact, they drive me nuts. My old Internet connection was usage-based, meaning that the bill went up for every piece of spam received or transmitted through the guiker.com domain. When spammers hijacked my mail server earlier this year, I got downright testy.

As competition has driven down the price of spam software and mailing lists, the quality of spam has fallen tremendously, if you can accept the notion of "quality" and "spam" in the same phrase.

Spammers who misspell their pitch - in the subject line, no less - have become routine. Recent offerings include "aprodesiac", "debt to high", "risk fee!", "for are clients", "frequent asked questions", "hot address's", and "co-branbing program". Worse, lately, not a few spammers who clog bandwidth with hundreds of thousands of missives have somehow neglected to

actually include a message What, I wonder, prompts a person to go to the effort of buying spam software, sign up for an Internet account that will be suspended immediately after the first spam (at a loss of set-up charges and first month's fees), and then get to include a message? Are a few of us in the spam community running a few

packets short of a datagram?

So, to get back to my tale, here it was, the fourth subject-less, text-less message in a row. I figured it was spam, for sure. Curiously, this latest one had an attachment "notice.htm", which contained the following:

PGh0bWw+PHNjcmlwdCBs

YW5ndWFnZT0iamF2YXNjc mlwdCI+bmFtZT0id2lueHoi Ozwyc2NyaXB0Pg0KPGZyY W1Ic2V0IHJvd3M9IjEwJSw qij48ZrJhbWUgc3JjPSJodR wOi8veHpsMy55ZWFoLm5l dClgbmFtZT0ibGR4eilgbm9 yZXNpemUgc2Nyb2xsaW5n PW5vPg0KPGZyYW1IIHNyY z0iaHR0cDovL3d3dy56aGF uamlhbmcuZ2QuY24vbmV0 aG9tZS9zdXNpL3N6eC9pb mRleC5odG0ilG5vcmVzaXpl !HNjcm9sbGluZz1ubz4NCj wvZnJhbWVzZXQ+PC9odG

Why, I wondered, would you bother to name something as if it were a Web page, attach it, and e-mail it if all it contained was garbage? But, was it? ASCII text is

encoded by a byte - an 8-bit binary number than can encode up to 256 characters. Since there are only 52 alphabet letters (26 lowercase and 26 uppercase) in an ASCII set, most true random garbage mainly contains the weird punctuation and figures that are encoded by the other

204 numbers. But this missive contains mainly letters, along with a few other characters. Letters and "regular"



**CHRIS** Gulker

Spamming is one of the curses of the Internet age, and often seems one of the most pointless, too

punctuation are "safe" characters, that is to say, they probably don't represent binary commands. Many Internet transport protocols require that data be transmitted as only "safe" characters, lest a router or computer interpret them as a command to, say, reset or

Could this be a kind of encoding? The plot

My modern e-mail client hides most of the stuff that's attached to an e-mail message like Internet headers and MIME specs. Thoughtfully, it has a "View source code" menu item that allows the user to see all the gory details, "View source" revealed the line: "Content-Transfer-Encoding: Base 64."

Aha! Base 64 is another encoding scheme that uses

safe characters. Now all I needed was a Base 64 decoder. A quick visit to a freeware/shareware site revealed nothing, since most modern e-mail packages have built-in decoders (and who knows why mine wasn't kicking in?). Fortunately, Sherlock, my Mac's find-it program, turned up a folder called "YA Base 64" on an old, long-neglected hard drive connected to one of the oldest computers gathering dust on gulker.com's LAN.

"YA" in freeware parlance stands for "Yet Another". Freeware programmers. God bless their souls, are like any other community they have vogues and fads. Whenever a bunch of programmers tackle the same topic, like decoder utilities, they not infrequently name the result YA-something, as in YA-Newswatcher for a Yet Another Usenet news reader. The program's creation date was 1996. Vintage software! I

wondered if it would run. It did. But when I dropped "notice.htm" on it, nothing happened. Back to

Inspiration struck notice.htm was devoid of the content encoding string and other markers in the source e-mail. Decoder programs rely on markers - words like "BEGIN" or "Cut Here" to find the bits to decode. I saved the e-mail to disk, and dropped it on the decoder a new "notice.htm" file appeared immediately. I dropped it on my browser.

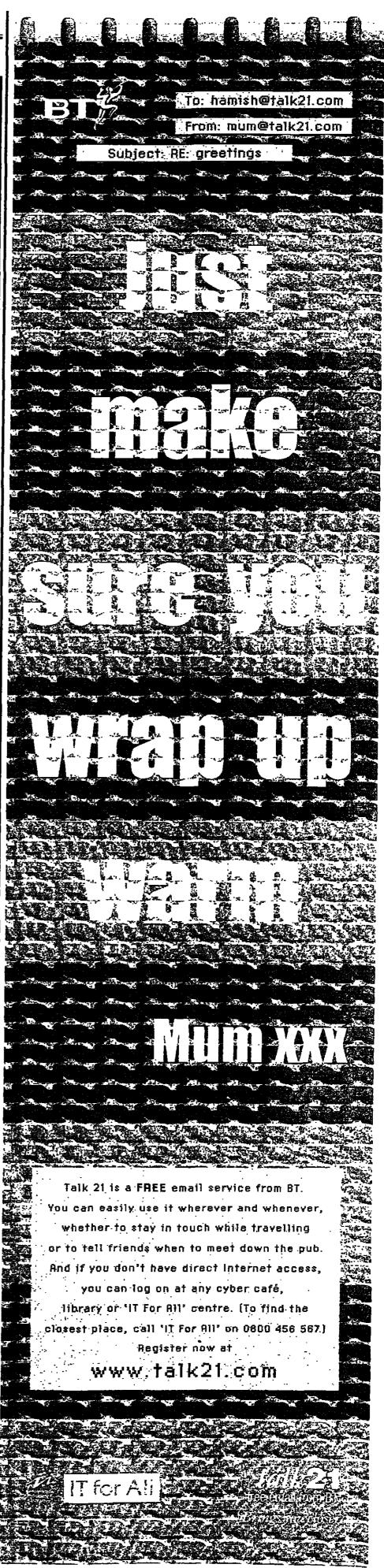
A page appeared, a Java applet launched, question marks began to parade across the browser's bottom border, a new window appeared and the browser suddenly transported itself to a site (http://www.zhanjiang.gd.cn/). But ".cn"? This was in China!

One of the windows began to display a mesmerising 3D graphic, while a "Christmas Benediction" scrolled. In another window a photo collage appeared, and then, suddenly, its surface rippled as if a drop of water had fallen in a still pool covering the image. Then a wave undulated from one corner to the other. The effects were dazzling, and had downloaded so fast from a server across the Pacific, that I knew these were no mere animated GIF files. I clicked on the image.

A new window appeared: "Wormhole Applet by Fabio Ciucci", with the line "You can connect to my page" and a button. I clicked the button. We were transported to: http://www.anfiteatro.it/java\_ html - Italy, this time. Another wizzy rippling image appeared. Fabio is a programmer, and his Java applets are for sale.

Thirty minutes of detective work on three continents, only to find I'd spammed myself! Fabio, you're one brilliant spammer (the alternative is I'm the world's dumbest spammee). Oi vey.

cg@gulker.com



# Are you surfing comfortably?

or the festive season, I want to give all of my readers a special present: a universal remote control for your website. Whether you are channel surfing or web surfing, a remote control can make the experience more convenient and more comfortable.

With the telly, a remote control is a small device with buttons which is used to change the content on the big screen. On the Web, the remote is a small browser window that contains links to change the content in the main browser window.

If you have any problems with this code, or you would like to see a working example of the remote control. visit: http://www.webbedenvironments.com/examples/49.html.

To set up your remote control, the basic idea is to use JavaScript to open a new window and then place an HTML gets its links into.

WEB DESIGN



CRANFORD TEAGUE

file in it with the links that make up the remote. The remote is opened from the main browser window which, in this example, is set up as two horizontal frames.

The top frame (menu) will have the link used to open up the remote control and the bottom frame (content) will be what the remote control tar<FRAMESET ROWS="50.\*"

<FRAME SRC="menu.html"</pre> NAME="menu"> <FRAME SRC="p1.html" NAME="content">

</FRAMESET>

Opening the Remote Control Using the JavaScript open method we create a function called remoteOpen() which is placed in a <SCRIPT LANGUAGE="JavaScript"> ...</SCRIPT> in the <HEAD> of the menu.html

var remote = null; function remoteOpen() {

remote = window.open("remote.html", "remote", "width=100, height

window.remote.focus();

When activated, this function by another window, it would

will create a new window called simply reload without coming dimensions you defined in the after yourself. To that end, remote is good for much, "remote" with a width of 100 pixels and a height of 250 pixconfusing to visitors to your site els. The new window will conif they hit the link to reopen the remote and nothing appears. tain the file remote.html which is a run-of-the-mill HTML file. Speaking of which... Unlike a standard window how-To open the remote, we have

ever, the remote window will not to run the remoteOpen() funchave menus, browser navigation. There are several ways to tion (ie, back and forward ardo this, including having it open rows), the current URL listing automatically when the main browser window opens. Howor anything other than the border around the window. The ever, it is a good idea to include border - called the "chrome" a link that will allow visitors to does include the standard reopen the remote if they close close-window button in the it or to bring the remote to the upper right corner, allowing front if it disappears behind anthe visitor to close the remote other window.

> HREF="iavascript:remoteOp en()">Remote</A>

Targeting Links Back to the Main Window

So what goes into the remote control? Anything that you could put into an HTML document, but you need to keep in mind that it has to fit into the

to the front. This can be very remoteOpen() function. If you want links from the remote to appear in the main window, function in menu.html. simply target the links to the content frame.

> <A HREF="p1.html" TARGET="content">Page <A HREF="p2.html" TARGET="content">Page

> 2</A> <A HREF="p3.html" TARGET="content">Page 3</A>

The above links are in remote.html but they target their links back into the content frame in the main window.

Closing the Remote

The visitor can close the remote control by using the remote window's built-in close button, but what happens if the visitor leaves your site without closing the remote? Good manners dictate that you should clean up

place the remoteClose() function after the remoteOpen()

function remoteClose() { if ((remote != null) (window.remote.document

!= null)) { remote.close(): } else { return; }

This function first checks to see if the remote is open. If it is, the function closes the window. Place an on Unload event handler into the <BODY> tag of menu.html

<BODY onUnload="remoteClose()"

Now, when the visitor goes to a new website, and the menu html file is unloaded, the remote will automatically disappear.

But wait! The universal

Sidebar Navigation: The simplest use of the remote control is to replace the sidebar navigation often used in websites. Check out the real cool remote in Entropy8 (http://www.entropy8.com/).

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List.

Web Tour: If you have a page of your favourite websites, you might consider placing them into a remote control.

Control Pad: You can also make the remote into a control pad to add functionality to the site.

Kairos(http://english.ttu.edu/ kairos/3.2) uses a remote control with two frames: the left frame has the links while the right frame can display information about the journal. search engine links, and links to other materials.

Season's greetings. Enjoy your new toy.

E-mail Jason at indy\_webdesign@mindspring.com

## WEBSITES

at any time, but all of the

100x250 area is reserved for the

file being loaded into the re-

Notice also that the remo-

teOpen() function gives the re-

mote focus - that is, it will

place it on top of any other win-

dows on the screen. Other-

wise, if the remote window

were aiready open, but covered

**BILL PANNIFER** 

Keeping track of Santa www.santatracker.com/html/ santatrack.html Santa's progress is here observed with military precision. Departure from the North Pole on 24 December will be videomonitored, the reindeers radartracked, and meteorological reports constantly updated.

The site features real-time sleigh systems evaluation and even a special night-vision facility. Special flashing alerts will warn viewers as he zeros in to make his home deliveries.

Jollier, if less topical, thrills at Claus Com's animated theme park (www2.claus.com), where kids anxiously awaiting their stocking can check their personal "naughty" or "nice" rating in advance. Another

hopeful (www.santa-claus.com) chuckles away while claiming to have been online since 1672. Meanwhile, Lycos offers a Java Race Your Reindeers game (www.lycos.co.uk/webguides/spec ial/xmas/race/index.html).

Simplify the festive hols www.newdream.org/holiday Conspicuous Christmas consumption is under attack at this site: the US produces five million extra tons of rubbish over the festive period and this site suggests creating less waste.

Visitors send in unusual, ecologically sound gift ideas – "my parents sponsored a panther in my name at the zoo" - and there are proposals for gifts of time rather than money, as well as some rather strained

alternative carols. Also on patrol is a Commercialism Cop to bust premature seasonal mania, such as the Maryland shop which put up its tree in July.

Links lead to other recycled presents, such as the everpopular ornaments made from freebie AOL CDs (www.neosoft.com/nikki), which this year include a Nativity Scene and a Jingle Bell Necklace.

Frankenfurby is promised

game.com/furby/index.html Christmas is a time of worldwide communication, and where Esperanto failed, the Furby could well succeed. The official site for this year's hard-to-get toy includes a Furbish dictionary with sound clips (happy = noo-



loo; tickle = nee-tye; maybe, oddly enough, = may-bee) - and the chance to send a festive shot of one of the furry pests posing in

front of the Taj Mahal. As no one actually believes in Santa anymore, this year's dose of disillusionment could perhaps come from the Furby Autopsy Site (www.phobe.com/furby), which gives instructions for unpeeling skin, ears and

carapace, right down to the motor and CPU. One specimen is being kept on ice before being modified, using electric cooker parts, and resurrected as Frankenfurby. "We find him much more amusing dead than alive," muse the webmeisters.

Praying by fingers www.cofe.anglican.org Not much sign of Christmas here as yet. The self-proclaimed "young and modest", though well-designed, official site includes a brief history of the church and its organisation; key statistics; and will soon offer sections ranging from major social issues to planning one's own funeral. As well as a daily online service, there is also personal advice on "How to

Pray", with suggestions for using each finger to represent different prayer goals - digital worship in its most literal sense. But some of the ideas sound a bit New Agey: focusing on a feather is recommended. Links lead to individual diocesan and other sites: for more C of E news and discussion try Anglicans Online (anglican.org/online).

Iraq's touch of peace christmas.com/worldview Click on a map for accounts of celebrations worldwide, at this newly enlarged section of this otherwise elf-infested site.

Lots of fascinating detail -Icelanders, it seems, believe in 13 Santas, all descended from the mythical Gryla the Ogre. And interesting festive grub includes

figgy pudding and Finnish kaffi bulla to raw oysters. Too often country links lead to a dead end - "We are currently

looking for contributions for Myanmar (Burma)". But there remains much

multicultural variety, as well as some universal aspirations: "In Iraq... after the service, the bishop blesses one person with a truch. Then that person touches the person next to him or her. Finally everyone has the 'touch of peace' on Christmas Day."

But nothing, of course, about US cruise missiles to celebrate the start of Ramadan.

Send interesting, quirky or, at a pinch, cool site recommendations to websites@dircon.co.uk

# **SOCIAL SURVEY**

Are you looking for a job in which you get to meet people from a variety of backgrounds? If you are, the Social Survey Division of ONS has vacancles for interviewers in the following areas: Birmingham, Crawley, Liverpool, Manchester, Reading, Swindon, Teeside and all London Boroughs.

The work involves calling on people in their homes and collecting information on a variety of social issues on behalf of the Government by carrying out structured interviewing. The volume of work varies from week to week and most of the interviewing will take place in the evening.

Successful candidates will have a professional manner and excellent interpersonal skills. Own car and telephone are essential. The work is hourly paid at attractive rates plus expenses. Interviewers are required to be available for at least three days and three evenings per week. The retirement age is 65. Send a postcard with your name, address and telephone number to SSD Recruitment & Training Unit, Office for

National Statistics (D1/08), 1 Drummond Gate, London Interviewing and training will take place throughout January



itied individuals, irrespective of racial origin, sex or disability.

All applications will be treated on merit.



**EAGLE EYES** 



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Do you have at least 1 year's experience

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+ 2D/5D + Video Graphics + Open GL + DirectX

You would be responsible for developing high

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To apply, please send your CV to PO Box 12945, The Independent Classified, 17th Floor, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

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Our rapid growth in 1988 was fuelled by a service and value driven ethic which has appealed to customers and inspired staff. We enter 1999 strengthened by a number of strategic alliances, and keen to hire talented development staff and project managers. We offer some of the most attractive remuneration packages in the industry, and the possibility of valuable share options to the right

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Please send CVs to admini@oxonian.com, or fax 01865 481 558. For more details of the opportunities at Oxonian, see our web page: www.oxonian.com or call and chat to us on:

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# The Independent 21 December 1998

# **NEW FILMS**

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U) Director: Brenda Chapman, Simon Wells, Steve Hickner Voiced by: Val Kılmer, Ralph Fiennes,

DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged his cartoon Life of Moses "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as The Ten Commandments by way

of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage. Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virain Trocadero

## GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

The state of the s

Michelle Pteitfer

See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Phoenix Cinema, Plaza. Ritzy Cinema. Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. Virgin Trocadero

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

in the follow-up to Babe. knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet. Hammersmith Virgin. Odeon Camden Town. Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

**BLADE** (18)

A techno soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this monotonous arcade-game thriller about a New York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed new bloodsucker. Noise and martial-arts action mask its tinny pedigree.

West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington. Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleus. Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

**THE BOYS (18)** 

oldest "boy" Brett Sprague (David Wenham) moves back into his mum's drab suburban home. terrorises his girlfriend and turns his younger brothers into petty henchmen. The Boys spotlights the downside of life Down Under - it's potent, predatory stuff.

West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG)

Less a dance, more of a trudge, this Ireland-set saga is given backbone by Meryl Streep's regal performance. West End: Curzon Moyfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Rio Cinema

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)

Writer-director Dan Rosen must have had some terrible experiences at university. All the students at his nameless American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure regulation that awards straight-A grades to the room-mates of suicides. Though not as deliciously nasty as the Scream films, Dead Man's Curve delivers a respectable quota of drive-in shocks. West End: ABC Piccadilly

**ELIZABETH** (15)

Rekhar Kapur's follow-up to Bandit Queen is the Story of a remale ngurene purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled Bistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, with the one stand-out being Johnny Depp - who brings Hunter S Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life

West End: ABC Boker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Haymarket

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U) See The Independent Recommends, right.

West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

Anymeertain soap opera, focusing on the ebbs and within a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Fitful as drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers plus rising star Laura Fraser. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minema,

Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema. Richmond Filmhouse, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill

LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels follows the lead of Tarantino, but the film's defining characteristic is its resilient morality.

West End: ABC Panton Street, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon of the kind that drifts out of Hollywood on a Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A bite-sized history lesson on West Coast politics struggles amid a lot of colourful duels and clattering set-pieces.

West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

In Disney's animated feature, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from the certain death of combat. This set-up has got it all: a pro-active heroine who does not want to tend a man or pet woodland animals; a strong father/daughter relationship; honour and nobility; and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also one of the most visually innovative movies that

Di has ever made. Gest End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

See The Independent Recommends, right, West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for lunk-headed swearing that sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate, rhetorical performers. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleus, Virgin Fulham Road. Virgin Trocudero, Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

George Clooney plays the law-breaking hero as a down-and-dirty version of Cary Grant, and turns in the best performance of his career so far. He seems to be a grown-up film star when most of Hollywood's male heart-throbs don't look old enough to get served in a pub. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square. Gate Notting Hill. Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage. Rilzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

Out of jail after serving a sentence for GBH, The Parent Trap catches Disney cannibalising its own back catalogue; re-heating its 1961 Hayley Mills heart-warmer into a spry, cross-cultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separatedat-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined to get their parents (Natasha Richardson, Dennis Quaid) back together.

West End: Hammersmith Virgin. Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

A PERFECT MURDER (15)

With Hollywood awash with dumb re-makes, the news that Hitchcock's classic Dial M for Murder was to be rehashed did not bode well. But this is gold-plated trash: the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. West End: ABC Ponton Street, Warner Village West End

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U)

Sublime cinema. It's a fast-talking romantic comedy, of course, but there's nothing silly or trivial about it. George Cukor's movie has a strange and melancholy heart and Katherine Hepburn's unsatisfied heiress sheds real tears. West End: Curzon Soho, Renoir

Cracker director Andy Wilson suffers a rude lesson in Hollywood politics with this glossy but garbled thriller about a junkie doctor David Duchovny) embroiled with a gang of counterfeiters headed by a hammy Tim Hutton. West End: Warner Village West End

**RONIN** (15)

See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

RUSH HOUR (15)

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker star in this hit-andmiss affair. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Gate Notting Hill, Hammersmith Virgin. Odeon Comden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon Swiss Cottage. Plaza. Ritzu Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

**SLUMS OF BEVERLY HILLS** (18) See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: ABC Piccadilly, ABC Shaftesbury

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE (18) Once ridiculously held up as a video nasty, Tobe

Hooper's thrift-shop chiller is, rather, a unholy celebration of the blood-lust urges within whitetrash America, ushering a bunch of generic teens to their doom among a family of unemployed slaughtermen. Explicit violence is thin on the ground; instead it's the alien, voodoo mood which dominates. West End: ABC Shaflesbury Avenue

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15) The latest comedy from the tasteless writerdirector team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. The film is basically a soft-centred romantic comedy regular basis. The gags never amount to more than vulgar icing on an unexeptionally bland cake. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Screen on the Green,

**VELVET GOLDMINE (18)** Jonathan Rhys Myers plays is a Bowie-esque idol in glitter make-up; his friend and mentor Curt Wild (Ewan McGregor) is a self-destructive US rocker in the Lou Reed-Iggy Pop mould. The story of how these characters are bound together

is told in a film brimming with intelligent ideas.

Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

West End: Curzon Soho, Rio Cinema LA VIE REVEE DES ANGES

(THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS) (18) Isa (Elodie Bouchez) is a gamine but impoverished drifter who meets Marie (Natacha Reginer) while temping at a clothes sweatshop. They become friends and move in together in a stunning first feature for Erick Zonca. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minema. Phoenix Cinema, Screen on the Green

THE WISDOM OF CROCODILES (15)

Jude Law plays a contemporary vampire who wines and dines his victims before he goes for the jugular. West End: ABC Panton Street

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

My Name is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film humour, indignation and emotional sympathy driven by Peter Mullan's scarily intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Good fun, and Allen's best work in a while.

Slums of Beverly **Hills** (15)

Татага feature début (right) is a modest but winning rites-of-passage movie about a family coping with poverty in LA's richest suburb. Alan Arkin gives an acting masterclass as the dad.

Ronin (15)

John Frankenheimer's action thriller is buttressed by a fine international cast (Robert De Niro, Jean Reno. Stellan Skarsgard), moody French locations and a clutch of supercharged car chases.

It's a Wonderful Life (U, Curzon Soho) Despite its reputation as a national treasure. Frank Capra's hymn to smalltown selflessness is fraught with all kinds of contradictions and blind spots. James Stewart, granted a vision of how life would have been had he never been born, is magnificent in the lead role.

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Hindle Wakes

Royal Exchange, Manchester Spectacularly refurbished after the 1996 bombing, this theatre bounces back in fine resilient form with the excellent production which had to be aborted then. To 9 Jan

Martin Guerre

West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds It's third time lucky for this much-rewritten Boublil/Schonberg musical. In Conall Morrison's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a tighter, magnificent show. To 13 Feb

of Love Theatre Royal, Haymarket Witty fantasia

The Invention

by Tom Stoppard on the twin passions of AE Housman: scholarship and an unavailable heterosexual To 4.Apr

Copenhagen

Cottesloe, National Theatre Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation (above). To 27 Jun

The Boy Who Fell Into a Book Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough

Typically witty and ingenious concept from Alan Ayckbourn - here wearing his children's dramatist hat. To 9 Jan

PAUL TAYLOR

#### THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

**Louise Bourgeois** Serpentine Gallery Veteran French-American sculptress, still a leading light at 87, shows new installations in which a giant mother/spider presides over images of spinning and weaving, restoration and decay. To 10 Jan

Claude Lorrain British Museum

One hundred drawings by the great French classical landscape painter, including his remarkably vivid outdoor studies of woods and streams. To 10 Jan

**Bridget Riley** 

Abbott Hall, Kendal A small retrospective, spanning the career of top British abstractionist Riley - from the shimmering monochromes of her early Sixties Op Art fame, to colour, stripes, diagonals and curves. To 31 Jan



**Edward Burne-Jones** 

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery Centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medicvalist nether world. To 17 Jan

Chris Ofili Whitworth Gallery,

Manchester

The 1998 Turner Prize winner (above) is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, eyes, Afros and black icons, and incorporating mutant balls of elephant dung. To 24 Jan

TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA WEST END

(0870 9020418) 

Babe: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 6.20pm Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 3.40pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0870-902 0404) O Piccadilly Circus The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm 8.30pm A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm) O Piccadilly Grous Dead Man's Curve 4.05pm, 8.45pm Harnam: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Victory 1.10pm, 6.10pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) & Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road 3.25pm. 7.05pm. 9.05pm Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm,

3.55pm, 6.35pm, 8.30pm ABC SWISS CENTRE ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0870-902 0403) © Leicester
Square/Piccadilly Circus Angel
Sharks 1.30pm, 3.25pm,
5.20pm, 7.15pm, 9.10pm The
Governess 1.45pm, 4.05pm,
6.25pm, 8.45pm Left Luggage
1.30pm, 6.55pm Rien Ne Va Plus
4.45pm, 9.15pm, La Vie Pewio 4.45pm. 9.15pm La Vie Revee

des Anges 1.25pm. 3.45pm. 6.05pm. 8.25pm ABC TOTTENHAM COURT

(0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road Antz 1.15pm, 5.35pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.05pm, 3.40pm Elizabeth Court 3.30pm, 8.55pm My Name Is Joe 5.25pm, 9.05pm The Prince of Egypt 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm

BARBIÇAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) + Barbican The Mask of Zorro 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm The Prince of Egypt 3pm, 5.30pm, 8pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) O Sloane Square On Connait la Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) ← Clapham Common Babe: Pig in the City 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm The Mask of Zorro 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Out of Sight 9.30pm The Prince of Egypt 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm,

0171-369 1720) 👄 Green Park Dancing at Lughnasa 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

**CURZON MAYFAIR** 

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) O Hyde Park Corner Left Luggage 2.50pm, 5.50pm La Vie Revée des Anges 4.40pm, 8.40pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm) Leicester Square/Tottenha Court Road The Eel 1.30pm, 6.45pm Henry Fool 4.10pm. 9pm It's a Wonderful Life 1pm, 6.30pm The Last Days of Disco 2.15pm, Philadelphia 2.15pm, 9.30pm The Philadelphia Story 12noon, 4.30pm, 7pm Velvet Goldmine 3.30pm, 9.15pm

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE 0171-703 4968) & Elephant & Castle Babe: Pig in the City 1.50pm. 3.45pm The Mask of Zorro 2pm. 5.15pm. 8.10pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm. 4pm. 6.20pm, 8.35pm Rush Hour 6.30pm, 8.45pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE 

(0171-727 4043) & Notting Hill Gate It's a Wonderful Life

4.10pm (+ Short: Whoosh) Out of Sight 1.40pm, 6.40pm Rush

GATE NOTTING HILL

Hour 9.05pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN
(0870-907 0718) & Ravenscourt
Park/Hammersmith Babe: Pig in
the City 12noon, 2.20pm,
4.20pm Enemy of the State
6.20pm, 9pm The Mask of Zorro
12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The
Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3pm,
5.50pm, 8.40pm The Prince of
Egypt 12.15pm, 2.20pm,
4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Rush
Hour 6.30pm, 9pm Hour 6.30pm, 9pm

(0171-930 3647) & Charing Cross Bianca 5pm, 7pm La Messa E Finita 9pm Zero de Conduite 6.30pm, 8.30pm

ICA CINEMA

(0171-734 1506) ← Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square The Boys 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Fire 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) & Notting Hill Gate Dancing at Lughnasa 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm,

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (08705-050007) & Camden Town Babe: Pig in the Ciry 11.55am, 1.55pm, 3.55pm The Mask of 5.40pm, 8.30pm Mulan 12.05pm The Negotiator 5.30pm, 8.25pm Out of Sight 5.55pm, 8.40pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 2.55pm The Prince of Egypt 12пооп, 2.25pm, 4. 6.55pm, 9.10pm Rush 4.30pm, 6.40pm,

9.05pm ODEON HAYMARKET (08705-050007) & Piccadilly Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5pm,

ODEON KENSINGTON (08705-050007) & High Street (08703-050007) High Street Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.55pm The Mask of Zorro 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.55pm Out of Sight 12.20pm, 3.20pm The Parent Trap 12noon, 3pm, 6.05pm, 9.10pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon. 2.25pm, 4.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.40pm Ronin 6.20pm, 9.15pm Rush Hour 1.55pm. 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm

**ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE** 

ODEON MARBLE ARCH 3.05pm The Mask of Zorro 11.50pm, 2.50pm, 5.55pm. 9pm The Negotiator 8.55pm Out of Sight 6pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 6pm The Prince of Egypt 11.45am, 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 11.50am, 4.40pm, 7.05pm,

**ODEON MEZZANINE** (08705-050007) & Leicester Square Elizabeth 12.35pm, Square Eitzabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Les Miserables 2.35pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm Mulan 2.10pm, 4.20pm Snake Eyes 6.25pm, 8.35pm There's Something About Mace 13.55pm 2.15pm About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (08705-050007) Cottage Babe: Pig in the City 1.25pm, 3.45pm Elizabeth 1.25pm, 3.45pm Elizabeth 8.30pm Left Luggage 6.25pm, 8.45pm The Mask of Zorro 1.40pm, 4.55pm. 8pm Mulan 12.45pm Out of Sight 3pm. 5.25pm. 8.20pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.25pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WEST END 5.45pm, 8.25pm PEPSI IMAX CINEMA

5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm PHOENIX CINEMA (0181-444 6789) East Finchley Antz 12pm Left Luggage 1,50pm Revée des Anges 4.05pm, 6.30pm

(0171-494 4153) • Piccadilly Circus Everest 12.35pm, 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.05pm T-Rex Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45em, 9.05pm, 3.40pm, 5.45em, 9.05pm, 3.40pm, 5.45em, 9.05pm, 9

(0990-888990) ← Piccadilly Circus Antz 1.15pm, 3.30pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.45pm, 3.10pm, 5.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Saving Private Ryan 7.50pm The Truman Show fpm, 8.30pm Twilight 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

RENOIR (0171-837 8402) & Russell Square On Connait la Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm The Philadelphia Story 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

RIO CINEMA (0171-254 6677) BR: Dalston Kingsland Babe: Pig in the City 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm Dancing at Lughnasa 8,45pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) BR/O Brixton (01/1-/33 2229) BR/© Brixton Antz 12.05pm, 2.05pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.25pm The Boys 7pm East Side Story 2.45pm It's a Wonderful Life 4.15pm (+ Short: Whoosh) The Mask of Zorro 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.55pm My Name is Joe 8.50pm (+ Short: The Man Who Held His Breath) Out of Story 6.35pm eath) Out of Sight 6.35pm, 9.15pm (+ Short: Vacuum) The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Hour 4pm, 9.20pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) Saker Street Left Luggage 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm My Name is Joe 2.20pm, 6.40pm Out of Sight

SCREEN ON THE GREEN Revée des Anges 6.15pm.

SCREEN ON THE HILL

UCI WHITELEYS (0990-888990) O Queensway
Babe: Pig in the City 3.50pm,
4.50pm, 7pm Blade 6.20pm,
9.10pm The Mask of Zorro
2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.50pm The Negotlator 9.10pm Out of Sight 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm The 8.40pm The Prince of Egypt 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907 0710) O Sloane Square/South Kensington 12,30pm, 2,30pm, 4. 4.15pm, 6.30pm Mulan 12.45pm My Name is Joe 8.45pm Out of Sight 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 9pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 2pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907 0711) & South Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 1pm, 3pm, 5pm Elizabeth 2pm. 5.30pm, 8.20pm The Mask of Zorro 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Negotiator 12.40pm, 3.35pm, 6.25pm, 9.20pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Ronin 7pm, 9.30pm There's Something About Mary 2.15pm, 5.50pm,

VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-907 0712) © Piccadily Circus Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.35pm My Name is Joe 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm There's Something About Mary 1.30pm, 3.10pm. About Mary 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0716) & Piccadilly Circus Antz 12.10pm, 2.10pm. 4.05pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Babe:
Pig in the City 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 2.20pm The Negotiator 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Out of Sight 12ncon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm The Truman Show Ipm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) <del>O</del> Leicester Square **Blade** 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 1.30pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Lethal Weapon 4 12noon, 5.40pm. 8.30pm 2.50pm,

Barrels 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Mulan 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm The Negotiator 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.20pm A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm. 9pm Playing God 7.10pm, 9.30pm Rush Hour 12.50pm, 1.50pm. 3.20pm. 4.20pm. 5.50pm, 7pm, 8.20pm.

> **CINEMA** LONDON LOCALS

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) & Park Royal Antz 12.10pm. 2.10pm. 4.20pm. 6.30pm. 8.30pm Babe: Pig in the City 10am. 12.10pm. 2.20pm. 4.30pm. 6.50pm Blade 7pm. 9.55pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Mulan 10.35am, 2.45pm The Negotiator 6.10pm, 9.10pm Out of Sight 9.45pm The Parent Trap 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 9.35pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.55pm Rush Hour 12.50pm, 2.30pm, 3.05pm, 4.50pm, 5.20pm, 7.10pm, 7.40pm, 10.05pm, 9.25pm 5mall Soldiers

BARNET

12.25pm, 4 40pm

ODEON (08705 050007) & High Barnet Antz 12noon Babe: Pig in The City 12.20pm, 2.15pm. 4.15pm, 6.05pm The Mask of Zor-ro 12.45pm, 3.45pm, 8pm The Negotiator 8.15pm Out of Sight 8.25pm The Parent Trap 12.40pm. 3.20pm The Prince of Egypt 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Rush Hour 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm

BECKENHAM

ABC (0870 9020412) BR: Beckenham Junction Antz 4.55pm, 6.50pm Babe: Pig In the City 12.15pm, 2.35pm The Parent Trap 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm The ince of Egypt 12.30pm, 3pm, 6.40pm. 9pm Rush Hour 8.50pm BEXLEYHEATH

CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR: Bedeyheath Antz 12,30pm, 2,30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm Babe: Pig in the City 11am, 1.05pm, 3.10pm, 5.15pm Blade 7.10pm, 9.40pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 2pm, 5.20pm. 8.45pm The Mask of Zorro 1pm. 3.45pm. 6.30pm, 9.20pm Mulan 12noon Out of Sight 7.15pm, 9.45pm The Parent Trap 11.10am, 1.45pm, 4.25pm, 7pm, 9.35pm The Prince of Egypt 11am, 12.10pm, 1.10pm, 2.20pm, 3.20pm, 4.30pm, 5.30pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Rush Hour 1pm. 3.30pm, 6pm. 7.40pm, 8.30pm, 9.45pm Small Soldiers 12noon, 2.30pm, 4.50pm There's

Something About Mary 8.50pm ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Bromley North Babe: Pig in the City 7.15pm The Mask of Zorro 1.45pm, 5.05pm, 8.10pm Out of Sight 8.35pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.45pm The Prince of Egypt 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm Rush Hour

3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm CATFORD ABC (0181-698 3306) BR: Catford Babe: Pig in The City 1.30pm, 3.50pm. 6pm The Prince of Egypt .15pm. 3.45pm. 6.15pm. 8.45pm

Rush Hour 8.40nm CROYDON CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030)

BR: Croydon West/East Elizabeth 6.10pm The Last Days of Disco 3.45pm Love is The Devil 8.45pm SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR: West Croydon. Babe: Pig in the City 12.20pm, 2.50pm The Mask of Zorro 12.05pm, 2.45pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Prince of Egypt

12noon, 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon Antz 1pm. 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.05pm Blade 6.50pm, 11.50am, 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm lulan 10.10am, 2.30pm The Negotiator 6pm, 9pm Out of Sight 8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 9.20pm The Prince of Egypt 10.40am, 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm Small Soldiers 12.10pm.

2020) © Dagenham Heathway Antz. 11.30am. 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 8pm Babe: Pig In the City 10.30am, 11am, 12.45pm, 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm Blade 8.40pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 3pm. 5.50pm, 9.10pm Mulan 11,20am, 5.50pm. 9.10pm mulan 11.20am, 4pm The Negotiator 9.30pm Out of Sight 8.30pm The Parent Trap 10.45am, 1.25pm, 4.10pm, 6.55pm, 9.40pm The Prince of Egypt 11am, 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Rush Hour 1.15pm, 3pm, 3.30pm, 5.15pm, 6.30pm, 7.30pm, 9pm, 9.50pm Small Soldiers 1.40pm, 6.15pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0)81-592

9070719) BR/O Ealing Broadway Babe: Pig in the City 12noon The Mask of Zorro 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.30pm, 3.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.05pm Rush Hour 6pm, 8.40pm **EDGWARE** BELLE-VUE (0181-381 2556) O Edgware Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm Babe: Pig in The City 12.15pm, 2.30pm Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate

phone for times Mehndi phone for

VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-

times Nasseb phone for times The Parent Trap 1.45pm, 5pm, 8pm Waiood phone for time

**EDMONTON** LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-Babe: Pig in the City 10.45am. Hota Hai 5.10pm, 8.40pm The Mask Of Zorro 12.30pm, 3.35pm, 12.50pm The Negotiator 10.10pm Out of Sight 4pm, 7pm. 10.20pm The Parent Trap 12noon, 2.50pm, 11.10am, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm Ronin 9.25pm Rush Hour 11.40am, 12.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm Ronin 9.25pm Rush Hour 11.40am, 12.40pm, 2.15pm, 3.20pm, 4.45pm, 6.10pm, 7.15pm, 8.55pm, 9.50pm Saving Private Ryan 9.15pm Small Sol-

diers 11am, 1.30pm **FELTHAM** 

CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Feltham Antz 11.25am, 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm Babe: Pig in the City 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.40pm Blade 7pm, 9.30pm Doli Sajake Rakhna 3.20pm, 9.50pm Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate 11.05am, 2.35pm, 6.05pm, 9.35pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 11.10am, 2.40pm, 6.10pm, 9.40pm Kudrat 3pm. 6.30pm, 10pm Lock, Stock & Two of Zorro 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Mulan Tlam, 1pm Nasseb 11.30am, 6.20pm The Negotiator 6.15pm Out of Sight 4.30pm, 5.15pm 9.40pm The Parent Trap 1.15pm, 9.40pm The Parent Trap 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.55pm, 9.35pm The Prince of Egypt 11am, 12noon, 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 11.40am, 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 7.30pm, 9.05pm Small Soldiers 11.30am, 2pm The Soldier (Asian Film) 12noon, 3pm, 9pm Wajood 11.15am, 2.45pm, 6.15pm, 9.45pm

**NORTH FINCHLEY** WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) & East Finchley/Finchley Central Antz 11.30am, 2pm, 4.15pm, 7.30pm, 10pm Babe: Pig In the City 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7pm Blade 9.45pm The Mask of Zorno 11.10am, 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm Mulan 10.30am. 12.40pm The Negotiator 5.40pm, 9.20pm Out Of Sight 6.50pm, 9.40pm The Parent Trap 11.40an 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.40pm The Prince of Egypt 10.40am, 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Small Soldiers 2.50pm

FINCHLEY ROAD
WARNER VILLAGE ROAD (0171604 3110) & Finchley Road Antz
11.20am. 1.30pm. 3.40pm,
5.50pm, 8pm Babe: Pig in the City
12.10pm, 2.30pm. 5.10pm, 7.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 10pm The Mask of Zorro
12.20pm, 3.20pm. 6.20pm, 9.20pm
Mulan 11.30am, 1.40pm The Ne-FINCHLEY ROAD 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 0.20pm, 9.20pm Mulan 11.30am, 1.40pm The Ne-gotiator 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 9.50pm Out of Sight 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.40pm The Parent Trap 12noon, 9.40pm ine rarent frap izition, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Prince of Egypt 11am, 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm Ronin 10.05pm Rush Hour 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 7.50pm, 10.10pm Small Soldiers 11.05am, 1.20pm

GOLDERS GREEN ABC (0181-455 1724) & Golders Green The Prince of Egypt 1,45pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm

CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich Antz 1.10cm Elizabeth 2.45pmm The Mask of Zorro 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Mulan 12.55pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm

HAMPSTEAD Park Babe: Pig in the City 1,30pm, 3.40pm. 6pm Out of Sight 8.10pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

SAFARI (0181-426 0303) + Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Weald-stone Doll Sajake Rakhna 8.45pm Fire 1.30pm, 5pm, 7pm Kudrat 1.30pm, 5pm The Soldier (Aslan

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) & Harrow on the Hill Antz 11.40am. 1.40pm. 3.40pm. 5.40pm. 7.40pm. 9.40pm Babe: Fig in the City 10.40am. 11.10am. 1.10pm. 1.40pm. 9.15pm The Mask of Zorro 11.20am. 2.20pm. 5.25pm. 8.30pm Mulan 10.45am. 12.45pm. 2.45pm. 4.45pm The Negotiator 9.10pm Out of Sight 6.05pm. 8.45pm The Parent Trap 10.15am. 1.05pm. 3.55pm. 6.45pm. 9.30pm The Prince of Egypt 9.35am. 12.05pm. 2.30pm. 4.55pm. 7.25pm. 9.50pm Rush Hour 11am. 1.30pm. 3.30pm. 4pm. WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 4.55pm, 7.25pm, 9.50pm Resil Hour 11am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 4pm, 6pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 10pm Small Soldiers 10.05am, 12.55pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm

ODEON (08705 050007) @ Holloway Road/Archway Antz 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm Babe: Pig in the City 1pm, 3.05pm Blade 8.45pm The Mask of Zorro 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 8.15pm Mulan 1.20pm The Negotiator 5.20pm, 8.20pm Out of Sight 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm. 3pm. 5.50pm. 8.35pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm. 2.20pm. 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Rush Hour 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 3.50pm, 4.35pm, 6.15pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm, 9.05pm Small Soldiers 12.35pm

ODEON (08705 050007) & Gants Hill Babe: Pig in the City 1.10pm. 3.35pm, 6pm The Mask of Zorro 1.50pm, 5pm, 8.10pm The Negotiaror 8pm Out of Sight 8.15pm The Parent Trap 11.55am, 2.30pm. 5.30pm The Prince of Egypt 11.40am, 2pm 4.20pm, 6.30pm. 8.50pm Rush Hour 1.30pm. 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

KILBURN TRICYCLE THEATRE (0171-328 1000) → Kilbum Dancing at Lughnasa 6.30pm Mulan1.30pm, 4pm Out of Sight 8.45pm

ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston Antz 6.10pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.10pm, 3.25pm The Parent Trap 2pm, 5.10pm, 8pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 8.30pm

MUSWELL HILL ODEON (08705 050007) Highgate Babe: Pig in the City 12.20pm The Mask of Zorro 11.30am, 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Out of Sight 8.25pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm The Prince of Egypt 11.55am, 2.05pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm

PECKHAM ir (0181-235 3006) Br: Peckham Rye Babe: Pig in the City 12.35pm, 2.30pm, 4.25pm, 6.25pm Blade 9.15pm The Mask of Zorro 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm Mulan 12.45pm The Negotlator 8.40pm The Parent Trap 12.20pm. 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Prince Egypt 1pm, 3,30pm, 6pm,

ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Babe: Pig in the City 2.10pm. 4.10pm The Parent Trap 2.05pm. 5.05pm, 8.05pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm Rush Hour 6.20pm.

PUTNEY

Bridge/BR: Putney. Antz 6pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.15pm, 3.30pm Out of Sight 8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm ODEON (08705 050007) BR/O

ABC (0870 9020401) → Putney

Richmond The Mask of Zorro 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Rush Hour 1.40pm. 4pm. 6.50pm, 9.20pm ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) BR/ Richmond Antz 1,30pm

3.40pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.40pm Dancing At Lugh-nasa 7pm, 9.20pm Mulan 1.20pm The Negotiator 8.40pm Out of Sight 3. 10pm, 6pm, 9pm The Par-ent Trap 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm Ronin 8.50pm ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford

Babe: Pig in the City 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm Rush Hour ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705

050007) BR: Romford Antz 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm Babe: Pig in the City 11.30am, 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Blade 8.40pm Dr Dolittle 10.20am Ever After 10.20am Godzilia 10.20am Good Burger 10.20am The Mask of Zorro 11am, 2pm, 5.05pm, 8pm Mulan 1.15pm, 3.30pm Out of Sight 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Parent Trap 12.05pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.15pm The Prince of Egypt 11.45am, 2.10pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9pm Small Soldiers 12.30pm, 3pm,

SIDCUP ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup

Antz 6.10pm Babe: Pig in the City 1,30pm, 4pm Elizabeth 8.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm. 3.45pm,

6.15pm, 8.45pm STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricklewood Antz 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm Blade 8.45pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 3pm. 6pm. 9pm Out of Sight 9pm The Parent Trap 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm The Prince of Egypt 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour

12noon, 2,15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm,

ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Antz 4.20pm, 8.35pm Babe: Pig in the City 2.10pm, 6.20pm Out of Sight 5.30pm, 8.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm,

8.45pm Small Soldiers 2.25pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill/ Brixton/Clapham Common Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm the Mask of Zorro 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Negotiator 8.10pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

STRATFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE
HOUSE (555 3366) BR/O Stratford
East Babe: Pig in the City 12.15pm,
2.15pm, 4.15pm The Mask Of
Zorro 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm The Parent Trap 1.10pm, 3.45pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.05pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm Rush Hour 6.35pm, 9pm Slums of Beverly Hills 7pm,

SURREY QUAYS

UCI (0990 888990) & Surrey
Quays Antz 11.15am, 1.30pm,
3.45pm, 6.10pm Babe: Fig in the
City 11am, 11.15am, 1.10pm,
1.30pm, 3.45pm, 4pm, 6.40pm
Blade 9.20pm Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels 9.10pm The Mask
of Zorro 12.30pm, 3.30pm,
6.30pm, 9.30pm Mulan 11am,
1.30pm The Negotiator 8.40pm
Out of Sight 6.50pm, 9.50pm The
Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.15pm,
6.15pm The Prince of Egypt
10.45am, 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6pm,
8.30pm, 10.40pm Ronln 7pm, **SURREY QUAYS** 10.49am, 11.19pm, 5.49pm, 5.9pm, 8.30pm, 10.40pm Ronin 7pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 11.45am, 2.15pm, 4pm, 4.45pm, 6.20pm, 7.15pm, 9pm, 9.40pm Small Sol-diers 11.30am, 2pm, 4.30pm

SUTTON UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sutron/@ Morden Antz 11.30am. 1.30pm, 4pm Babe: Pig in the City 11.15am, 1.45pm, 4.30pm, 7pm 11.15am, 1.45pm, 4.30pm, 7pm Blade 9.45pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Ne-gotlator 6.30pm Out of Sight 9.30pm The Parent Trap 11.45am, 2.45pm, 5.45pm The Prince of Egypt 10.45am, 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.125pm, 8.45pm Rush Hour 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm Saving Private Ryan 8.30pm Small Sol-

CORONET (0181-888 2519) ⊕ Turnpike Lane Babe: Pig in The City 1.50pm. 3.45pm The Mask Of Cty 1.50pm, 5.45pm in emask or Zorro 2pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Rush Hour 6.30pm, 8.45pm

UXBRIDGE ODEON (08705 050007) O Uxbridge Babe: Pig in The City 11.45am Dr Dollttle 11.30am The Mask of Zorro 1.55pm, 5.05pm, 8.05pm The Prince of Egypt 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.35pm, 8.50p

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-9020424) Walthamrisc (0670-9020424) 9 Walliam-stow Central Antz 6.50pm Babe: Fig in The City 2.20pm, 4.40pm The Parent Trap 2pm, 5pm, 8pm The Prince Of Egypt 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm

**WALTON ON THAMES** THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames The Mask of Zorro 5.25pm, 8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.40pm The Prince of Egypt 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm

WELL HALL CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham The Parent Trap 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pr 8.35pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR/O

Wimbledon/ South W

WIMBLEDON

Wimbledory South Wimbledon Antz 12.15pm Babe: Pig in the City 11.50am, 1.50pm, 3.50pm The Mask of Zorro 11.45am, 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.15pm Out Of Sight .55pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 2.25pm, 3pm, 5.45pm The Prince Egypt 11.30am, 1.50pm, 10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Ronin 8.30pm Rush Hour 2pm, 4.10pm, NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) & sike Lane Fire 6pm Kuch Kuch

Hota Hai 2,30pm WOODFORD ABC (0181-989 3463) + South

Woodford Antz 6.20pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.50pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 8.25pm The Parent Trap 2.10pm, 5.20pm. 8.05pm The Prince of Egypt 1.25pm. 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm МООГЛИСН CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR:

Woolwich Arsenal Babe: Pig in the City 1.50pm, 3.45pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Rush Hour 6.30pm, 8.45pm

### **CINEMA** REPERTORY

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232) Love and Death on Long Is (12) 2.30pm, 6.30pm Raging Bull (18) 8.30pm Jeannie (NC) 6.15pm PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Funny

es (18) 3,45pm Stiding Doors (15) 6.30pm The Big Lebowsk (18) 9pm Lolica (18) 1pm BRISTOL CUBE (0114-907 4191) Antz (PG) 4pm Out of Sight (15) 7pm, 9.30pm

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Dancing at Lughnasa (PG) 3pm, 8.30pm Elizabeth (15) 6pm Henry Fool (18) 8.40pm If Only (15) 8.40pm

CAMBRIDGE IRTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Elizabeth (15) 4.30pm, 9.15pm It's a Wonderful Life (U) 2pm,

6.50pm CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-

666) **Insomnia (18)** 7.30pm Snake Eyes (15) 8pm

CHICHESTER
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) Babe: Ptg in the City (U) 1.30pm Eltzabeth (15) 8.45pm Ever After (PG) 6pm Mulan (U) 3.45pm CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Dr Dolittle (PG) 2.30pm It's a Wanderful Life (U) 8.15pm There's

Something About Mary (15)

# THEATRE

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. 

Seats at all prices 

Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matinees — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

W ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) ⊕ Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50. 130 mins.

● AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic The Cut. SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/Ø Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £7.50-£30. 180 mins.

ANNIE Rags to riches story of the optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/O Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, [1] 4pm, £7.50-£32.50. 165 mins. w BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

ney's carbon version of the lavourite fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road. W1 (0171-656 1888) © 10tt Ct Rd. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, £18.50-£35. 150 mins. **BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Ros**sell's long-running Liverpool musi-cal melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733)

Lavish family musical based on Dis-

◆ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins. ● BOOGIE NIGHTS Shane Richie stars in a brand new 1970s musical. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 0171-836 0479) ● Charing X/Embankment, Mon-Thu 8pm. Fri-Sat 8.30pm, [6] 5.30pm, [7] 5pm, ends 9 Jan, £11-£28.50. 150

w CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079) & Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£35.

O CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broad-way musical about two murderous women and their nightchib act, Adel-phi Malden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) & Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm. [4][7] 3pm, £16-£36 (Inc booking fee). 130 mlns.

version of this fairytale is staged by the acclaimed Improbable Theatre. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) & Hammersmith. Tonight 7pm, ends 9 Jan, £5-£18, concs £6.50.

● FAME THE MUSICAL High-octane stage version of the TV series charting the highs and lows of a class of young showhiz hopefuls. Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) & Leic Sq/Picc Circ. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm, ends 16 Jan, £15-£30.

O FILUMENA Judi Dench and Michael Pennington star in Timberlake Wertenhaker's new translation of Eduardo de Filippo's play. Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) ♦ Picc Circ. Tonight 8pm, ends 27 Feb, £12-£30. 120 mins.

of the hit film about life in an American high school Cambridge Eartham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7,30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£30, 150 mins AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christo ter Cazenove and Susannah York

n Peter Hall's acclaimed produc of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ⊕ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£29.50. 165 **■ AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen** Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-tion of JB Priestley's thriller Garrick

tonio 35 Frisidey & Intiger Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) & Lek Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5pm, £10.50-£25. 110 mins. O INTO THE WOODS Soudhe and Lapine's acclaimed musical based on fairytales. Donmar Ware-

house Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) ← Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £15-£27.50. THE INVENTION OF LOVE Tom Stoppard's play about the life of poet A E Houseman, author of The Shronshire Lad. Theatre, Royal Shropshire Lad. Theatre Royal, Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (0171-

930 8800) ₱ Picc Circ. Tue-5 .30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-**LOVE UPON THE THRONE**Tasteful look at the Charles and Diana marriage. Comedy Panton Street. SW1 (0171-369 1731)

O Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm. [4][7] 3pm. ends 31 Jan, £6-£25. w LES MISERABLES Musica dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, E7-£35. 195 mins.

MISS SAIGON Musical which resets the Modom Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WCZ (0171-494 5060) Covent Gard Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £5.75-£35.

w THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunnit, St Martin's West Street, WCZ (0171-836 1443) ◆ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm. [7] 5pm, £10-£24.50.

O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical, Her Majesty's Haymarket. SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 0171-344 4444) + Picc Circ. Today

3pm & 7.45pm, £10-£35. N RENT Musical inspired by La Bo-heme and set in modern day New York Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221) & Holborn/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7

[4][7] 3pm. E12.50-£32.50. 160 ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE OLIVIER: Peter Pan Stephen Oliver's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up, with Michael Bryant as the Storyteller. In rep tonight 7,15pm.

SHERMAN THEATRE The Secret Seven Save The World New adw LYTTELTON: Betrayal Pinter's venture, courtesy of Enid Blyton, and defining work depicts a menage a trois and stars Imogen Stubbs and Mon-Thur 2pm, ends 9 Jan. £6-£10, concs available. Senghenydd Road Douglas Hodge. In rep tonight 7.30pm. 90 mins.

(01222-230451)

w COTTESLOE: Guiding Star Jonathan Harvey's new play gives a tender account of the life of Hillsborough disaster survivor. In rep tonight 7.30pm. 150 mins. Olivier & Lyttelton: E8-£27. Cottesioe-£12-£18. Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). BR/O Waterloo.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY w THE BARBICAN: The Tempest Adrian Noble directs Shakespeare's romance drama, in rep tonight 7.15pm. 165 mins.

THE PIT: The Two Gentlemen Of Verona Shakespeare's witty com-edy is directed by Edward Hall. In rep tonight 7pm, ends 28 Jan. Barbican Theatre: £5-£26. The Pit: £11-£18.50, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). BR/⊕ Barbi-

O SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER HIL 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia, London Palladiun Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020)

Oxford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, no perf Dec 25, £10-£32.50. 135 mins.

● STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musi-cal. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road. SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/⊕ Vic-toria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£30. 150 mins. w THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE BA linda Lang stars in Alan Ayckbourn's cornedy, Duchess Catherine Street,

344 4444) & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 30 Jan, £15-£27.50, 140 mins. w THE WEIR Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) & Leic So/Char-

WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 0171-

ing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £5-£25. 90 mins. ✓ WEST SIDE STORY Brand new production of Bernstein's classic musical Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5400) ↔ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm,

[5][7] 3pm, £15-£35. 160 mins. O WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND O WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND
Lloyd Webber's new musical based
on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416
6000/cc 0171-836 2428) & Holborn. Mon-Sat 7,45pm, [5][7] 3pm,
£10-£32,50, 120 mins.

◆ THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's chilling ghost story Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 0171-344 4444) ◆ Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm. [7] 4pm, £8.50-£23.50.

# THEATRE

BEYOND THE WEST END CHICKEN SHED THEATRE Cinderella In Boots Alternative and updated version of Cinders' clas-sic tale. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan. £7-£11. Chase Side. N14 (0181-292 9222) & Southgate/Cockfosters.

GATE THEATRE The Wolf Road Tale of Viking gods battling with all and sundry. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan. £10, concs £6, Mon - all seats £6. Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0706) ♦ Notting Hill Gate. RICHMOND THEATRE Jack And

The Beanstalk Toyah Willcox, Mark Curry and Vicki Michelle join the 7pm. ends 30 Jan. £8-£15, concs available. The Green, Richmond. Surrey (0181-940 0088) & Rich-THEATRE ROYAL STRATFORD EAST Cinderella Follow Cinderella's

formation from ragged servant to glittering princess. Mon-Thu 2.15pm & 7.15pm, ends 23 Jan. £5-£15. Gerry Raffles Square. E15 (0181-534 0310) & Stratford. WIMBLEDON THEATRE

Cinderella An all-star cast in this year's panto extravaganza - Britt Ekkand, Bradley Walsh, Kriss Ak-abusi, Gary Bushell and Generation Game's Melanie Stace. Mon-Wed 7pm, mats Mon-Thur 2pm, ends 31 lan, E9-E16.50, concs availab The Broadway. SW19 (0181-540 0362) • Wirnbledon. YOUNG VIC Arabian Nights Col-

lection of magical Eastern tales adapted for the stage by Dominic Cooke. Mon-Wed 7pm, mars Mon, Wed & Thur 2.30pm, ends 23 Jan. £7-£18. The Cut. SET (0171-928

#### THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

DE LA WARR PAVILION DICK nittington Arthur Bostrom and ex-stender Pete Beale star. Mon-Wed 7pm, mats Mon-Thur 2pm, ends 2 E5.50-£7.50, concs available. (01424-787949)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL Mother Goose Christopher Biggins is Mother Goose. Today 2.30pm. ends 9 Jan. £7.50-£12.50. concs available. Bond Street (01273-328488)

GARDNER ARTS CENTRE The hame's enchanting tale of rivertife is adapted for the stage. Mon-Wed 6.30pm, mats Mon-Thur 2.30pm, ends 2 Jan. £6.96-£8.95, concs ava Road (01273-685861) Sussex, Lewes

BRISTOL THEATRE ROYAL Mother Goos Panto extravaganza about the fabled fowl. Mon-Wed 7.15pm, mat 21 Dec. 2.15pm, ends 30 Jan. £3-£16. King Street (0117-987 7877)

CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs With Coronation Street's Beverly Callard and Nick Cochrane. Mon-Wed 7pm, Thu 5.30pm, mats Mon-Thu 2pm, ends 10 Jan. £5-£14. Wheeler Street

(01223-357851). NEW THEATRE The Adventures Of Robinson Crusoe David Essex stars this swashbuckling adventure. Mon-Wed 7pm, Thur 5pm, mats Mon-Thur 2.30pm, ends 17 Jan, £7-

£13.50, concs available. Park Place

# FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call

EVE ENSLER'S The Vagina Monologues was a huge hit on Broadway last year. Glenn Close, Winona Ryder (right), Whoopi Goldberg and Susan Sarandon were bagged for the US gala performance, though it's unconfirmed who will play London's gala show (14 Feb). Drawn from the responses of 200 women to the question "If it could talk, what would it say?", this is, according to The Village Voice, "the most outrageous and important feminist event since the bra burnings". King's Head Theatre, 115 Upper St, London N1 (0171-226 1916) opens 26 Jan, £12

Last Call AMERICAN SKATE-PUNK band The Offspring have the nod of approval from the Californian skateboarding scene, and it seems their appeal extends to colder climes, too: the London date of their UK tour (Brixton Academy, 15 Jan) is already sold out. Fast becoming MTV favourites, it's their high-octane, spiky punk anthems that

keep fans moshing. Barrowlands, Glasgow (0141-339 8383) 10 Jan; Rock City, Nottingham (0115-912 9122) 12 Jan; Manchester Apollo (0161-242 2560) 13 Jan; Town & Country Club, Leeds (0113-280 0100) 14 Jan

CHELTENHAM EVERYMAN THEATRE Aladdin Princesses, pagodas and antics in Peking. Mon-Wed 7.15pm, mats Mon-Wed 2.15pm, Thur noon & 4pm, ends 16 Jan. £4.50-£13. Re-

gent Street (01242-572573) EASTROURNE DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE Can-derella Eastbourne's Christmas treat starring Hinge and Brachet and Wendy Craig. Mon-Wed 2.30pm & 7.30pm. Thur 3pm, ends 9 Jan. E7-£11, concs available. Comptor

Street (01323-412000) NORWICH MADDERMARKET THEATRE The Wind in The Willows Alan Bennett' adaptation of the Kenneth Graham riverlife novel. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, ends 2 Jan. £4-£6.50, St. Johns Al-

ley (01603-620917) OXFORD PLAYHOUSE THEATRE Cinderella Family panto with plenty of songs and audience participation for the dreaming spires. Mon & Tue 7pm, Wed & Thur 5.30pm, mats Mon-Thu 2pm, ends 17 Jan. £6-£16.50. Beau-

mont Street (01865-798600) THE HEXAGON The Wizard of Oz Michaela Strachan goes over the rainbow to Oz in search of the magical wizard. Mon-Wed 2pm & 7pm, Thur 4.15pm, ends 10 Jan. £10.50-£15, concs available. Queens

Naik (0118-960 6060) SOUTHAMPTON MAYFLOWER THEATRE Goldflocks And The Three Bears Frank Bruno, Karl Howman and Emily Symons in this star-studded panto. Mon-Thur 2pm & 7pm, ends 14 Feb. £7.50-

cial Road (01703-711811)

NUFFIELD THEATRE Alice In Wonderland Join Alice on a trip to the top-sy turvy world of Wonderland and meet the White Rabbit, Mad Hatter and many more. Mon-Wed 2,30pm, ends 16 Jan. £5.95-£12,50, concs available. University Road (01703-671771)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE

bsessive jealousy directed by Gregory Doran, in rep tonight 7.30pm, ends 26 Feb. £7-£30. Warside (01789-295623) SWAN THEATRE A Month In The Country Brian Friel's adaptation of Turgeney's portrait of all-consuming ire. Michael Attenbo ough directs. In rep tonight, 7.30pm ends 20 Feb. £5-£30. Watersid (01789-295623)

GRAND THEATRE Cinderella Melinda Messenger and Steven Houghton star as Cinderella and & 7.15pm, ends 31 Jan. £6.50 £12.75, concs available. Singleton de. Singletor Street (01792-475715)

WINDSOR THEATRE ROYAL Puss in Boots Genial weatherman Ian McCaskill is oined by panto veterans Rod Hull and Emu. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, mars Mon-Thu 2.30pm, ends 16 Jan. E6.50-£23, concs available, Thames Street (01753-853888)

WORTHING PAVILION THEATRE Peter Pan Gladiator Rebel stars in the tale of the boy from Nevernever land. Mon-Wed 7pm, Thu Spm, mats Mon-Thu 2pm, ends 3 Jan. £4.95-£9.90. Marine Parade (01903-820500)

CONNAUGHT THEATRE Aladdin Ex-Big Breakfust star Mark Little goes up the Beanstalk with Linda Nolan. Mon-Wed 7pm. Thu 5.30pm, Mon-Thu 2pm, ends 10 Jan. £8-£11.50, concs available. Union Place (01002-325323) (01903-235333)

## LITERATURE

NIGELLA LAWSON - HOW TO EAT Nigella talks about her new book Waterstone's Bookshop Bridge Street (01223-300123) Tonight 6.30pm, £3, £2 adv.

A RUCTION FOR PJ Live music and poetry in the memory of P J Fahy. Bread & Roses Clapham Manor Street SW4 (0171-498 1779) O Clapham North/Clapham Comnon. Tonight 8pm, £3

BOOKBINDING 1998 On display are examples from the 1998 Book-binding Competition. Also on display will be the short-listed novels for the 1998 Booker Prize for Fiction. British Library Foyer Euston Square NW1 (0171-412 7760) ⊕ Euston/Kings Cross. Mon, Wed-Fri 9.30am-6pm. Tue 9.30am-8pm, Sat 9.30am-5pm,

TORRIANO Poetry reading with Chris Emery, Leah Fritz and others, plus open mike. Global Care Golden Square W1 (0171-287 2242)

Piccadilly Circus. Tonight 6.30pm phone for prices. **DULCIE GRAY** The distinguished actress and writer talks to Sheridan Morley about her life and work National Theatre: Cottesioe South Bank SE1 (0171-452 3000) BR/O Waterloo, Tonight 6pm. £3.50,

**EXHIBITIONS ABERYSTWYTH** ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE ABERYS LWYTH ARTS CENTRE Here To Stay: Arts Council Col-lection Purchases Of The 1990s Contemporary art inspired by do-mesticity and everyday objects. Mon-Sat 9am-5pm (phone for Christmas opening), ends 30 Jan, free. Penglais (01970-523232)

BEXHILL DE LA WARR PAVILION Picasso Late Erchings Two series of etchings made in 1968 and 1969. Mon-Sun 10am-брт, closed 25 Dec, ends 3

Jan, free. (01424-787949) BRIGHTON BRIGHTON MUSEUM & ART GALLERY Maquettes: Henry Moore Maquettes, working models and graphics exhibition marking the cenpary of his birth. Mon. Tue. Thur Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm (phone for Christmas opening), ends 10 Jan, free. Church Street

(01273-290900) ARNOLFINI Secret Victorians: 7pm, Sun 12noon-6pm (phone for Christmas opening), ends 31 Jan, free. Narrow Quay (0117-929 9191)

LONDON COURTAULD GALLERY, COUR-TAULD INSTITUTE Material Evidence: Drawings From The Courtauld Collection Including work by Constable, Rubens and Van Gogh. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun & Bank Hols 12noon-6pm (last adm, bank Hois C (Moon-opm (Jast adm. 5.15pm) (phone for Christmas open-ing), ends 24 Jan. £4, concs £2, free 10am-2pm Mon (to gallery), Som-erset House, Strand, WC2 (0171-873

DESIGN MUSEUM The Work Of Charles And Ray Eames Over 500 objects by the leading 20th century 6pm, Sat & Sun 12noon-6pm (phone for Christmas opening), ends 3 Jan. E5.25. concs £4, family £12 (to museum). Shad Thames, S£1 (0171-378 60551 O Tower Hill/DLR: Tower Gateway.

ICA GALLERY Die Young Stay Pretty Sculpture, collage, painting and cut outs by eleven your, romantic artists, Mon-Sun 12noon-7 30no (phone for Christmas opening). ends 10 Jan. £1.50 day m'ship. £1 conc. Sat-Sun £2.50, £1.50 conc. The Mall, SW1 (0171-930 3647)

NATIONAL GALLERY Luca Signorelli in British Collections Draw ings and paintings by the artist who influenced Raphael and Michelan-gelo. Mon & Tue, Thur-Sat 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-8pm, Sun 12noon-6pm (closed 24-26 Dec). ends 31 Jan. free. Trafalgar Square. WC2 (0171-747 2885) & Charing Cross. Leicester Square.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY British Sporting Heroes Tracing sport in British culture from the 18th century to the present, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 12moon-6pm (closed 24-26 Dec. Jan 1) ends 24 Jan. £4, concs £3. St. Martins Place. WC2 (0171-306 0055) ← Charing

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS LIFE? Or Theatre?: The Work Of Char-lotte Salomon Powerful paintings made between 1940 and 1942. Mon-Thu, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-8.30pm, ends 17 Jan (closed 25 Dec). £5.50, UB40/OAP £4.50. VUS £4. child 12-18 £2.50, child 8-11 £1. Burlington House, Piccadil-ly, W1 (0171-300 8000/cc 413 1717) O Green Park

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL BALL-ROOM Duane Hanson Life-like models of poeple displayed in the public spaces. Mon-Sun 10am-11pmm (closed 25 Dec), ends 17 Jan, free . Mon-Sun 10am-11pmm, outh Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960

SERPENTINE GALLERY Louise Bourgeois Sculpture and installation by the major French artist. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm, closed Thur 24-Sun 27 Dec, ends 10 Jan, free. Kensington Gardens, W2 3 (0171-402 6075) South Kensington/Lancaster Gate. TATE GALLERY John Singer Sar-

gent Comprehensive exhibition de-voted to the paintings of the 19th century artist. Mon-Sun 10am-5.40pm (closed 24-26 Dec), ends 17 Jan 56 cons 56 17 Jan. £6. concs £4. In Celebration: The Art Of The Country House Including work by Canaletto, Shinbs and Holbein, Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm (closed 24-26 Dec), ends Feb 28, free, Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000) + Pimlico.

MAIDSTONE MAIDSTONE MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY The Disparates: Goya Late satirical etchings by the Span-ish master. Mon-Sat 10am-5.15pm. Sun 11am-4pm, closed Dec 25-27. ends 3 Jan, phone for prices, St. Falth's Street (01622-754497)

ST. IVES TATE GALLERY Displays 51. IVES TATE GALLERY Displays 1998-9: Partnerships and Practice Paintings and ceramics from the second half of the century. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm. Sun 11am-5pm (phone for Christmas opening), ends 11 Apr. £3.50, concs £2. Porthmeor Beach (01736-796226)

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## CLASSICAL

LONDON BARBICAN HALL New Queen's Hall Orchestra/Mortis Music by Richard Strauss including Four last Songs, Tonight 7.30pm. £7-£27. Bar-bican Centre, £C2 (0171-638 8891)

**CHRIST CHURCH Michael Chance** Seasonal settings for countertenor voice. Tonight 6.30pm. £4-£14. Commercial Street, £1 (0171-377

1362) O Aldgate/Aldgate East. ST JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE Tallis Scholars Seasonal settings by Thomas Tallis and others. Toright 7,30pm. £10-£30. Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061) ⊕ Westminster.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL Christmas Carols for Choir and Audience With the City of London Choir. Tonight 7,45pm, £8,50-£17,50 South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960) 4242) @/BR Waterloo.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL King's College Chair/Cleobury Joined by the Philharmonia in seasonal settings and carols. Tonight 7.30pm. £7.50-£28.50. Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212) High Street WIGMORE HALL Lynn Harrell The

cellist in recital. Today 1pm. £7. Kathryn Price Cello recital including Cesar Franck's Sonata. Tonight

7.30pm, £7-£14. Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141) & Bond Street. **OPERA** LONDON QUEEN'S THEATRE The Pirates of Penzance New D'Oyly Carte Opera production of Gilbert and Sullivan di-

SADLER'S WELLS The Bartered Bride Smetana's classic opera in a (01252-726234) Tonight 80 new Royal Opera staging directed b Francesca Zambello. Tonight 7pm £10-£60. Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (0171-863 8000) & Angel.

rected by Stuart Maunder. Toright 7.30pm. £15.50-£29.50. Shaftes-

O Piccadilly Circus.

enue, W1 (0171-494 5040)

DANCE CARDIFF ST DAVID'S HALL Moscow City Ballet: The Nutcracker Tchaikovsky's festive ballet for all the family. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm. £19.50-£26.50. The Hayes (01222-878444)

LONDON COLISEUM English National Ballet: The Nutcracker Derek Deane's staging of favourite with Tchaikovsky's familiar score. Today 2.30pm (Ponomarenko/Armand/McIlroy) & tonight 7.30pm (Oaks/Edur/Klimentova), £2,50-£39.50. St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300) & Leicester Square/Charing Cross.

## COMEDY

LONDON JULIAN BARRATT & NOEL FIELD-ING - THE MIGHTY BOOSH AT HEN AND CHICKENS The stars of Channel 4's Gas in their Perrier Best Newcomer award winning show Mon 8pm, ends 11 Jan, St Paul's Road. N1 (0171-704 2001) O Highbury & Islington, £5.

ton, Ricky Grover, Mandy Knight, John Mann, Keith Dover, Tonight 8pm, Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426-COMEDY CAFE Satirical Scouser Steve Gribbin, king of the surreal one-liners Milton Jones, MC Martin

Special with Alan Davies, Terry Alder-

THE COMEDY STORE AN Essen

Davies. Tonight 8pm, Rivington Street, EC2 (0171-739 5706) & Old THE COMEDY STAGE AT O.X. ONE Former Reeves and Mortimer sidekick Charlie Chuck, Pierre Hollins, surreal Welsh com

James, Neil J. Arms. Tonight 8pm. New Road (01865-250099) £7. **CLUBS** 

BRIGHTON DISCO BABIE XMAS SPECIAL AT THE HONEY CLUB Featuring Boogle Wonderland, the ultimate disco bar Tonight 10pm-2.30am, £3, mems £1 King's Road Arches, (01273-202807) NUS free before I 1pm.

LONDON CAUGHT IN A JAM AT THE WKD CAFE Live funk, hip hop, Latin and soul jam with plenty of guests. Tooight 9pm-2am. £3, free before 9pm. Ken tish Town Road, NW1 (0171-267

1869) & Camden Toy THAT'S HOW IT IS AT BAR RUM-BA Gilles Peterson, James Lavelle and Ben Wilcox chuck out rough 1970s funk, jungle, jazzy East Coast hip hop and cool West Coast sounds. Tonight 10.30pm-3.30am, £5. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-

## **EVENTS**

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ABERYSTWYTH CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR Design and craft fair giving last-minute gift inspiration. Aberystwyth Arts Cen-tre Penglais (01970-623232) Mon-

Sat 10am-8pm, Sun 11am-5pm, 23 Dec 10am-2pm, ends 23 Dec, free. LONDON THE GREAT CHALLENGE 1998 International political cartoon exhibition, in aid of Amnesty International Index on Censorship and the Cartoon Art Trust. The Gallery, Oxo Tower Wharf ground floor Bargehouse Street SE1 (0171-928 6193) Tube:

ends 23 Dec, free (donations wei TITANIC - OFFICIAL MOVIE TOUR: CHILDREN'S EVENT Themed ex-perience including many of the film's ets, props and costumes. Wembley Conference Centre Empire Way HA9 (0181-902 0902/900 1234) & Wembley Park, Mon-Sun 10am-7pm, last admission 6pm, ends 17

## Jan, £12, child £8. **MUSIC**

POP MANIC STREET PREACHERS, CATATONIA The passionate Welsh-men bash out tracks from This is My Truth, Tell Me Yours, with Cerys and the boys in support. Cardiff Inter-national Arena Mary Ann Street.

**EASTLEIGH** MARSHAL PEANUT Flinky ska. Charlie Parkers Upper Market Street (01703-641503) Tonight 8pm. phone for prices.

Butetown (01222-224488) Tonight

ric HAMSTERS Southend's hard gigging Hendrix inspired blues rock ers. The Maltings George Square concs £5. LONDON JESUS UNDERGROUND, FEROX,

**HUMAN ODDITIES Hardcore jazzy** 

nk from the Czech Republic, Bul

FARNHAM

& Gate Kentish Town Road NW5 (0171-485 5358) & Kentish Town. Tonight 8.30pm, £4. concs £3.50. CARLEEN ANDERSON Soul chanteuse sings her diverse resume. Jazz Cafe Parkway NW1 (0171, 316 6060) & Camden Town. Tolk tt 8.30pm, £15-£18.

CULTURE CLUB, HUMAN LEAGUE. ABC The all star line-up headed by George's soul pop phenomenon par-ties back to the 1980s. London Are-na Limeharbour, Isle of Dogs E14 (0171-538 1212) DLR: Cross Harbour, Tonight 7pm, £25.

LES HOMMES QUI ADORENT LES FEMMES Organ wielding avant-popsters. Po Na Na Upper Street N1 (0171-359 6191) & Highbury & Isington. Tonight 8pm, £5

JOOLS HOLLAND AND HIS

RHYTHM AND BLUES ORCHES-

TRA Boogie woogie revivalist at the helm of his R&B big band. Shepherd's Bush Empire Shepherd Bush Green W12 (0171-771 200) O Shepherd's Bush. Tonight 7pm. DURAN DURAN Hits tour for the classic 1980s pop heart-throbs with

an album package. Greatest, to back it up. Wembley Arena Empire Way, Wembley (0181-902 0902) • Wembley Park. Tonight 7pm, £20. PLYMOUTH ROOTJOOSE West Country rock from the surfer-friendly popsters. The Cooperage Vauxhall Street, The Barbican (01752-229275) Tonight

MUSIC JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

LONDON HAMISH STUART BAND Ever popular soul-jazz vocalist and clavinet player. 606 Club Lots Road SW10 (0171-352 5953) & Fulham Broadway/Earls Court. Tonight 9.30pm, Music charges £3.70 for members, £4.75 non-members.

SCOTT HAMILTON QUARTET Laid back mainstream from celebrated tenor sax smoothie. Pizza Express Jazz Club Dean Street W1 (0171-439 8722) ↔ Tottenham Court Road. Tonight 9pm, £12.50.

RALPH MCTELL The guitarist and prolific songwriter and storyteller. Purcell Room South Bank SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/O Waterloo.

Tonight 7.30pm, £10, concs £8. BOB KERR & HIS WHOOPEE BAND - CHRISTMAS SHOW Seasonal antics from Spike Jones devotees. Pizza on the Park Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-235 5273) & Hyde Park Comer. Tonight

9.15pm & 11.15pm, £18, £16 adv GEORGE MELLY AND JOHN CHILTON'S FEETWARMERS eran showman and vocalist in resilar Christmans panto. Rounde Scott's Frith Street W1 (0171-439 0747)

O Lekester Square. Tonight 9.30pm. phone for details.

MA PARTIES

اعكذا من الاعلى

concs £2.50.

DAYREURN

# MONDAY RADIO

#### RADIO 1 (97.6-99.8MHz FM ) .30 Chris Moyles. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Lamacq Live - the Christmas Party. 12.00 The Breezeblock. 2.00 Emma B. 4.00 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM ) 6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton. 8.00 Big Band Christmas Special. 8.30 The New Jazz Standards. 9.30 The Rock 'n' Roll Years. 10.30 Richard Allinson, 12.00 Katrina

#### Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta. RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Georges Bizet.

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Dival. 4.45 Music to Die For. 5.00 A Medieval Christmas. 5.30 Music Rooms. 6.00 - 6.01 Discovering Music with Leonard Slatkin. 7.00 Christmas Cocktails. See Pick of the Day.

7.30 Performance on 3. Another chance to hear ten of the most memorable concerts of the 1998 BBC Proms season at the Royal Albert Hall, London. Prom 54, given at the end of August, contained a Proms first: Elgar's dramatic and expressive pratorio 'The Apostles', a broad musical canvas richly coloured by his imagination. The life of Christ is treated obliquely to focus on the consequences for his followers, and the work ends with a visionary meditation on the Ascension. BBC Symphony Chorus and Orchestra/Andrew Davis, Elgar: The Apostles. Felicity Lott, soprano (Virgin), Catherine Wyn-Rogers, mezzo (Mary Magdalene). (R) broadcaster Rainer Hersch pre-

**6.00** Supergiri (1984) (54441150). **8.05** All Dogs Go to Heaven II (1996) (59453082).

7.00 Theodore Rex (1995) (15841). 9.00 in

..- 34 (1992) (941315), **12.35** Kiss of a Stranger (1997) (545735), **240** Bed Medi-

cine (1985) (360193), 3.50 - 6.00 Antonials

4.00 Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961) (7478?79).

10.00 Under the Volcano (1984) (4729599).

6.00 Flying Leathernecks (1951) (9877841)

8.00 How I Won the War (1967) (9889686

11.55 Brubaker (1980) (13034082), 2.05

Sherlock Holmes: Pursuit to Algiers (1945)

5.00 Fried Green Tornatoes at the

Whistle Stop Cafe (1991) (77766686)

See Pick of the Day, 10.00 Naked (1993)

(1988) (5794464). 1.35 Pump Up the volume (1990) (2773938). 3.10 SFW

(1995) (6298919). 4.45 - 6.00 The Fire

(8813402). **4.30** Walker's World (8819686).

5.00 Connections 2 by James Burks (2279995), 5.30 Jurassica (8833266), 6.00

Animal Doctor (8830179). 6.30 Ways of the

las and their Vanomous Relations (5513570).

(5536421). **11.00** Wings (5864547). **12.00** 

Super Structures (1294735). 1.00 Connec-

tions 2 by James Burke (9726025). 1.30

Ancient Warriors (9072919). **2.00** Close.

Wild (2383792), **7.30** Beyond 2000 (8810315), **8.00** Wilder Discovery: Tarantu

9.00 Lives of Fire: Consumed by Fire

(5533334), 10.00 Pedal for the Planet

(95189247). See Pick of the Day. 12.10

(1939) (6541938), 4.50 Close,

man's Ball (1968) (4482464).

4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Line (1994) (97333767).

SKY CINEMA

FILMFOUR

the Bleak Midwinter (1996) (92841). 11.00

#### PICK OF THE DAY

is How to Be Happy (8pm R4, right), though it's not clear if this means we are less happy than we used to be, or whether we exile and a pair of piano tuners, talk about their own levels of happiness and ask whether it is

10.00 Voices, 'Christmas with

duces and sinos his favourite

Christmas songs in conversation

dale-Bennett, plus Irving Berlin's

'White Christmas'. Gerald Finley

(baritone), Julius Drake (piano).

lev's composition 'in C' that

10.45 Mixing It. It was Terry Ri-

brought minimalism to the main-

stream. In the 34 years that fol-

lowed, Riley has embraced - and

been embraced by - a whole uni-

verse of music. Tonight, he joins

pieces that have made a big im-

12.00 Composer of the Week:

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

Johann Sebastian Bach. (R)

6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS; Start the Week.

9.45 Serial: Scraps with lannucci.

11.00 NEWS; Snapshots from the

10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.

12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

the studio to talk about three

pact on him.

RADIO 4

11.30 Jazz Notes.

(92.4-94.6MHz FM )

New South Africa.

**12.57** Weather.

9.30 Carols for Choirs.

11.30 My Gaiety Girls.

1.00 The World at One.

Mark Russell and Mark Sandall in

A QUESTION that seems to vex to be found in our in work, music, people more than ever before chocolate or increased levels of serotonin in the brain. Perhaps some people are just born happy. A sure shortcut to happiness is Christmas Cocktails (7pm R3),

just have raised expectations of a seasonal compilation of dance happiness. Here, a number of music of the Thirties and Forties, people, including a Bosnian tonight featuring the Dorsey Brothers, Chick Webb, Django Reinhardt and others.

ROBERT HANKS



sents five personal and idiosyn-1.30 Top Brain 1998. 2.00 NEWS: The Archers. cratic studies of the music of our 2.15 NEWS; Afternoon Play: Maicentury. 1: 'The First Taboo'. Holding the book upside down: the gret's Christmas. 3.00 Money Box Live: 0171 580 Second Viennese School and

3.30 Beating the System. Gerald Finley'. Gerald Finley intro-3.45 Colonel Clay - Master of Disguise. 4.00 NEWS; The Food Prowith lain Burnside. Including music gramme.

by Wolf, Grieg, Poulenc and Stern-4.30 Turning World. 5.00 PM, 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 7:15 Front Row. Francine Stock with the arts programme, including the hunt for the best Christmas single ever.

7.45 Under One Roof. The first of three five-part dramatisations from the Michele Hanson stories. With Janet Maw, Edna Dore and Luisa Bradshaw-White (1/5). 8.00 NEWS: How to Be Happy. An excursion into positive thinking.

led by Carole Rosen. With professor of pharmacology Susan Greenfield, historian Theodore Zeldin, novelist Wendy Perriam, piano tuners Hector and Janet Ruggins and Ben Renshaw and his happiness project. See Pick of the

8.30 Analysis. Buy Now, Pay Later.' Andrew Dilnot asks how far we can really afford the debts we incur and whether we are storing up trouble for the future. 9.00 NEWS; A Wolf to the North: Fear. Wildlife writer Jim Crumlev

travels north through Alaska in search of the Arctic wolf and all it symbolises

9.30 Start the Week. Jeremy Paxman sets the cultural agenda for the week with guests including Professor Nancy Rothwell of Manchester University's School of Biological Sciences, who will be delivering this year's Royal Institution Christmas Lectures. 10.00 The World Tonight. With

Robin Lustig. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Chosen for Christmas. Five stars read their chosen seasonal tale. 1: Patricia Routledge reads 'Winter' from 'Cider with Rosie' by Laurie Lee. 11.00 Radio 4 Appeal. The vicar of St Martin in the Fields speaks on behalf of St Martin in the Fields, a charity which helps the homeless and those in need throughout the British Isles. 11.02 Fatherland. (R) 11.30 Rebel Music.

12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Out of Her 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 • 6.00 Farming Today. **RADIO 4 LW** (198kHz)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 • 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

(693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Brian Hayes. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Whistle Blower. 2: Simon Mann goes behind the

RADIO 5 LIVE

scenes to talk to the man in black, How do football referees cope with the intense pressure of their 8.00 Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. Featuring commentary from the Valley, where Charlton Athletic take on Aston Villa in the FA Carling Premiership. Plus all

the latest news from across the continent in the European football round-up. 10.00 Late Night Live. With Steve LeFevre, Incl 10.30 Sports Round-

Up. 11.00 News. 1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 • 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105,8MHz

6.00 Jeremy Clark. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Janey Lee Grace. 10.00 James Merritt. 1.00 6.00 Richard Allen.

**WORLD SERVICE RADIO** (198kHz LW )

1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Seven Days. 1.45 Wild Tales. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 On Screen. 3.00 World News, 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 The Greatest City on Earth. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

TALK RADIO 6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Meen. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Anna Raeburn. 4.00 Peter Deeley. 5.00 The Sports Zone, 8.00 Mike Allen. 1.00 - 6.00 ian Collins.

Dearances (1346667), 2.50 - 7.0 Shopping

6.00 Tiny Living (9498179), 9.00 The

Roseanne Show (4291605). 9.50 Jerry

Springer (5036808). 10.40 Michael Cole (3247266). 11.30 Brookside (174518). 12.00

Special Babies (3235599). 12.30 Rescue

911 (1708860), **1,00** Ready, Steady, Cook

(1257860). 1.35 Can't Cook, Won't Cook

(7645773). **240** Jerry Springer (4048179).

(92743334). 5.20 Tempestt (8974727). 6.10

Jerry Springer (6770599). 7.00 Rescue 911 (7457686). 7.30 Beyond Bellef: Fact or Fic-

tion (1026402). 8.00 Ally McBeal (9876112).

9.00 Film: A Mother's Courage: the Mary

Thomas Story (1989) (9886599), \$1,00 The

9.00 Clash of the Titans (1981) (65211518).

11.00 Poltergeist (1982) (51262518). 1.00 Guns for San Sebastian (1968) (51140342).

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL

3.00 Clash of the Titans (1981)

(14861396). 5.00 Close.

Spicy Sex Files (1593112). 12.00 Close.

3.00 Film: Beloved Infide! (1959)

with Screenshop (31116629).

## INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

SATELLITE TV, RADIO/15

#### CHESS JON SPEELMAN

LAST MONDAY, I examined the rules regarding pawn promotion. This time it's castling. In the ancient game of Shatranj, a precursor of modern chess, the king moved as in our game, but there were no extensions to its powers. These first appeared, possibly in the 13th century, in the form of a leap which could take the king from e1 to any of c1, c2, c3, d3, e3, f3, g3, g2, g1 or even further.

The modern idea of castling by moving a king and rook simultaneously developed from this, initially with multiple variations – kingside castling could take the form of Kf1 and Rel, Kg1 and Rel the present form of Kg1 and Rf1, Kh1 and Re1 etc, etc - and had stabilised by the 17th century everywhere except in Italy, where "rogue forms" remained in use right up to the beginning of this century.

The modern rule, which I shall paraphrase, is that the king moves two squares along a rank towards a rook, which then jumps over it landing on the square next to it.

Both the king and the rook must be unmoved, and there must be no pieces between them; moreover, the rook must be on the first rank - problemists at one stage had fun with the idea of castling along the e file with a newly underpromoted pawn! Castling is illegal if the king is in check or has to move across, or to a square that is attacked; but you can castle after being in check (as long, of course, as you didn't parry it by moving the king). The rook can be attacked, or move over a square that is attacked.

Such an unusual move leads to all sorts of effects and records, which are treated in detail in Stortling Castling by Robert Timmer, published by BT Batsford last year. There are things like the latest known in a master game - he gives a couple on move 46, though I subsequently found an instance from the Hungarian Team Championship in 1993-4 where it was as late as move 48; and occasions when it has a particularly powerful effect, such as the well known but vicious trap of White castling queenside with check simultaneously attacking a black rook on b2.

I recently fell victim to a "startling castling" myself - though I had in fact foreseen it - in a splendid game that will no doubt appear in future editions. 19 0-0!! was a tremendous blow; though I'd have had much better chances after 19... Rag8!

#### White: Yasser Seirawan Black: Jon Speelman Elista Olympiad 1998

Modern Defence I d4 g6 15 Ng5 Qe7 2 e4 Bg7 16 Nxf7 Kxf7 17 fxe4 Nxe4 3 c4 d6 4 Nc3 Nc6 18 Nxe4 Qxe4 5 Be3 e5 19 0-0!! Rhg8? 6 d5 Nce7 20 Bh5+ Kf8 7 g4 f5 21 Rxf5+ Qxf5 8 f3 Nh6 22 Bg5 Be5 9 Be2 Nf7 23 Rf1 Qxf1+ 10 b4 Ng8 24 Kxf1 Kg7 11 exf5 gxf5 25 Be7 Kh8 12 Qd2 Nf6 26 Qh6 Bg7 13 gxf5 Bxf5 27 Qe6 Bxb2 14 Nh3 e4 28 Bf7 Rg3 1-0

## BRIDGE

South made a good start in his East-West game: dealer South game contract on this deal and. indeed, achieved a winning end position. However, West found a deceptive defence and - now faced with a guess - declarer got it

South opened One Heart and, after a pass by West, North raised directly to game to end the auction. West led O against Four Hearts and it was immediately clear to declarer that the complete duplication of the North-South distribution would set problems. East overtook his partner's OQ, hoping to be left on lead to push a spade through, but South won, drew trumps in two rounds, cashed

West won with his jack and continued with #J. East studies this for some while for, superficially at any rate, it looked best to overtake in order to lead a spade. But would that help? Certainly not as the cards lie, for South would play low and West would be end-played. Even if West's spades were as good as A Q x, there was no hurry, for West could get off lead safely with a low spade.

♣A K, and exited with 010.

Eventually East allowed his partner to hold the club trick

No.3799 Monday 21 December

North **◆**374 ♥QJ854 0.10.7 ♣AK8 East **♦**K Q 10 8 **4652** ₹96 OQ1982 ♦K654 **♣**J 10 6 **♣**Q932 South **♠**A93 **♥AK732** OA 3 **+**754

once wrote). It looked fatal for the defence but West found the inspired exit of \$10! Now, from declarer's point of view this was just the card that he would have led from  $\Phi$ Q108x(x) or  $\Phi$ K108x(x). Hoping that the lead was from a five-card suit (when East would therefore have  $\Phi K \times \text{or } \Phi Q \times$ declarer played low from dummy and, after winning with his ace. got off lead with spade. Oh dear! East was not end-played at all, and West triumphantly took the next Lunatic or genius? As SJ Simon two tricks with ♠Q and ♠K...

# SATELLITE AND CABLE

## PICK OF THE DAY

10.00 The Witches (1990) (84808). 12.00 Supergirl (1984) (92597570). 2.05 All Dogs Go to Heaven II (1996) (649421). 4.00 /7 Be Imme for Christmas (1998) (1063), 6.00 The 2016 (1990) (29995), 8.00 Marvins scorer of perhaps the most Sports 3). famous try in rugby history ~ Hoom (1996) (91112). 10.00 Get Shorty (1995) (901537). 11.45 Foxfire (1996) 218624). 1.35 Acts of Love (1995) (113071). 3.25 - 6.00 Crackerjack (1994) (22331990). SKY MOVIEMAX 6.00 in Your Wildest Dreams (1991) (66179). 1970s. But more than that, he 7.30 The Christmas List (1997) (30727). was the dream scrum-half, able 9-30 Lovestruck (1996) (11995), 1L00 Race against the Harvest (1987) (33995). 1.00 The Christmas List (1997) (56761). to pass, kick or run with equal facility. It is hard to think of a 3.00 in Your Wijdest Dreams (1991) (42088), 5.00 Lovestruck (1996) (22570).

GARETH EDWARDS (right) is the Sporting Heroes (10pm Sky

Has any British director more that titanic end-to-end effort accurately chronicled our social (immortalised by Cliff Morgan's mores than Mike Leigh? A commentary) for the Barbarians double-bill of his work tonight against the All Blacks in the kicks off with his exquisitelyobserved suburban comedy, Life is Sweet (8.10pm FilmFour). which is followed by his sharp portrait of a devious misogynist (David Thewlis) in Naked (10pm more complete rugby player in the game's history. He is FilmFour).

JAMES RAMPTON



profiled tonight in Dickie Davies' ish Football (36889), 4-30 V-Max (7421). 8.00 Games World (4310247). 8.15 Games World (4303570), 8.30 Street Sharks (45421). 9,00 The Simpsons (36773). 9,30

Earthworm Jim (71334). 10.00 Hercules -The Legendary Journeys (25228), 11.00 The New Adventures of Supermen (38792). **12.00** The Oprah Wintrey Show (8506957). **12.55** The Special K Collection (53610792). **1.00** Days of Our Lives (9687266). **1.55** The Special K Collection (77939179). **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (6406773). 2.55 The Special K Collection (212228), 3.00 Jenny Jones (7373150), 3.55 The Special K Collection (8943976), 4.00 Best of Guittyl (78773), 5.00 Star Trak; Deep Space Nine 889). 6.00 Married with Children (5044).

6.30 Friends (9624), 7.00 The Simpsons (6518). 7.30 The Simpsons (5808). 8.00 Simpsons (5266), 8.30 Simpsons (4773), 9.00 Siders (17150), 10.00 South Park (57266), **10.30** Seinfeld (33686), **1L00** Friends (79402), **1L30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (99112). 12.30 Highlander (91735). 1.30 - 8.00 Long Play (6709613).

SKY SPORTS 1 7.00 Ford Football Special Arsenal vs Leads (20518). 8.30 Racing News (87518). 9.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (61570), 9.30 Gilette World Sport Special (21501), 10.00 Scottish Football Kilmarnock v Dundee Utd (65860), 11.00 Football League Review Sheffield Utd vs (pswich (85624), 12,00 Aerobics - Oz Style (81334), 12.30 What a Weekend (17247). 1.00 Ford Football Special Arsanal vs Leeds (15605). 2.30 Spen-

5.00 Max Power (3353). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (5696), 6.30 What a Weekend (9266). 7.00 Ford Monday Night Football Charlton Athletic vs Aston VIIIa (12059334). 10.15 Sky Sports Centre (926570), 10.30 Football League Review (95995), 11.30 V-Max (47975) 12.00 Sky Sports Centre 8464), 12.15 Ford Monday Night Footbali Chariton Athletic vs Aston Villa (544464). 215 Football League Review (171087). 3.15 Sky Sports Centre 48013025) 3L30 Close

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (3334402). 7.30 Racing News (3353537). 8.00 Wild Spirits (2218605). 8.30 Beach Volleyball Tour (2217976). **9.00** Pool (7287605). **12.00** Squash (3386711), 1,00 H2O (3333773) ach Volleyball (3373247). **2.00** Pool (8516570), 5.00 Football League Review (2305632), 6.00 Rugby Union: Bermuda Masters (3382995), 7.00 World Motor Sport (1831773), 10.00 World Windsurfing (2212421). 10.30 Beach Volleyball 41), **11.00** Squash (3343150), **12.00** World Motor Sport (1631629). 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (65765880). 3.15 Close().

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 NFL Double-header (45492773). 6.00 World Windsurfing (93736808), 6.30 V-Max (937)0860L 7.00 Fish TV - Tonv Dean Outdoors (67608247). 7.30 Fish TV (93716044), **8.00** Squash (65210889), **9.00** What a Weekend (47324808), **9.30** V-Max

(48975624). 10.00 Dickie Davies's Sporting Heroes: Gareth Edwards (65293112). See Pick of the Day. 11.00 Motor Recing (47329353). 11.30 Close. EUROSPORT

7.30 Xtrem Sports: Yoz Action (10841). 9.30 Alpine Skiing (68624), 10.30 Alpine Sking (22686), 12,00 Luge (1450), 1,00 Ski Jumping (90570): 2.00 Biathlon (34841): 4.00 Alpine Sking (10773): 5.00 Officed (8421): 6.00 And They Walked Away (10334). 7.00 Xtrem Sports: Yoz Action (46686), 8,00 Equestrianism (59150). 10.00 Football: Eurogoals (97060), 11.30 Football (26353), 1.00 Close().

LIK GOLD 7.00 Crossroads (5064745), 7.30 Neighbours (4366889). **7.55** EastEnders (4773266), **8.30** The Bill (8089686), **9.00** The Bill (8003266), 9.30 Middlemarch (9161860), 10.30 Angels (8092150), 11.00 Dallas (3406860). 11.55 Neighbours (32855711), 12.25 EastEnders (2289860). 100 Middlemarch (7352315), 2.00 Dalas (6526599), 2.55 The Bill (2971150), 3.25 The 9# (6188150). 3.55 EastEnders (4439286). **4.30** Angels (76332082). **4.55** Film: Carry On Christmas: That's Carry On (1978) (20889792). **6.45** Bread (15696063). **8.50** Dad's Army (8692131). 9.00 One Foot in the Grave (5969518). 9.40 Men Behaving Badly (7827686). 10.20 Bottom (5587334). 11.00 The Bil (3493686). 11.30 The Bil (3082632). 12.00 Bread (63419551). 1-20 Some Mothers Do Ave Em (4637667). 2.15 Keeping Up Ap-

7.00 Clueless (2624), 7.30 Desmond's (6792), 8.00 Roseanne (6044), 8.30 Just Shoot Me (7179), 9.00 Cybil (12131), 9.30 feld (28353). 10.00 Frasier (80605). 10.30 Cheers (99353). 11.00 Festival of Fun I (24976), 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (45518). 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (42822). 1.00 Taxi (82071). 1.30 The Critic (67349), 2-90 Dr Katz (25735). 2-30 Soap (31342), 3.00 Hooperman (75735), 3.30-4.00 Nightstand (28822).

GRANADA PLUS 6.00 The Box (9469179). 7.00 On the Bus-es (8882353). 7.30 Fern Street Gang 51860). **8.00** That's My Boy (8574315). 8.30 No. Honestly (8573686), 9.00 Classic merdala (8470179), 10,000 thirtysomething (8867044), 11.00 Hawaii Five-O (8887808), 12.00 Classic Coronation Street (8577402) 12-30 Emmerdale (8474995). 1-00 How's Your Father? (8881624). 1.30 Watching (8473266). 2.00 thirtysomething (4459889) 3.00 Sherlock Holmes (4922179), 4.00 The Professionals (4901686), **5.00** Hawali Five-O (2775150), **6.00** Emmerdale (8180995). **6.30** Coronation St (8171247). **7.00** Mission: Impossible (2507711). **8.00** The Professionals (2583131). 9.00 Coronation St (4990570), 9.30 Sez Les (8454131). 10.00 The Joker's Wild (8578131), 10.30 Hogan's Heroes (8594179), **11.00-2.00** As Granada Men & Motors (1796605).

# REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

**BBC1 N IRELAND** As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsitne 6.30 (976), 9.30 Sing Carols (434247), 10.20 The Clampers at Christmas (592402). 10.50 Film: Nightwatch (18698334). 12.25 They Think It's All Over (3588483). 12.55 Film: Uncommon Valour (907551). 2.35 Joins BBC News 24 (26536272).

**BBC1 SCOTLAND** As BBC1 SCOTLAND As BBC1 Lendon except: 6.00 News (624). 6.30 Reporting Scottand; Weather (753976). 740 The Beechgrove Garden (683599). 9.30 This is Your Life (48062). 10.00 The Clampers at Christ-mas (86614). 10.30 Film: Nightwatch (68720150).

BBC1 WALES As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Wales Today (976). 10.00 An Evening with Max Boyce (2537). 11.00 Film: Nightwatch (303131). 12.35 They Think It's All Over (1021209), **1.10** Film: Un-common Valor (316071), **2.50** Joins BBC News 24 (62007342).

ANC. Ja.
Alton except: 12.20 Angla
wwws and Weather (6703063). 1.00 Dinosaurs (87044). 2.35 Angla News and
Weather (6993696). 6.00 Beadle's Hot

Shots: Jeremy Beadle presents viewers' TV parodies and sketches, all made on their own carncorders (400421). 6.25 Anglia News and Weather (698315). 10.50 Anglia News and Weather (160781). 2.00 Nationwide Football League Extra (79735). 3.00 ClubaVision (7280938). 5.15 Nightscreen (2065358). 5.25 Coronation Street (7022025). CENTRAL

As Cariton except: 9.25 ITN News Headlines (437150). 9.30 Central News (5279518). 12.20 Central News and Weather (6703063). 1.00 Echo Point: Teenage sosp. Darcy warns Maurie not to let their differences affect Zac. Feeling suffocated by Shelley, Dave suggests they split up. Daniel concedes the Belinda should not be told he is her fa-Beinda should not be lost he in ter-ther (87044), 2.35 Central News (8993686), 6.00 Beadle's Hot Shots (400421), 6.25 Central News (598315). 10.50 Central News and Weather (160781), 5.15 Joblinder (1222483).

HTV WALES As Cariton except: 12.20 HTV
News (6703063), 1.00 Shortland Street:
Guy plays detective. Lionel makes a
deal. Ellen gets more than she bargained for (87044), 2.35 HTV News (6993686) 6.00 Baidy Man (400421). 6.25 Wales Tonight (698315). 10.50 HTV News (160781). 2.00 Nationwide Football League Extra: Football maga-zine hosted by Gabriel Clarke, featurin every goal from the weekend's Nation-wide League fixtures. The programme also includes a nostalgic trip into the ITV football archives, plus a weekly feature on the league's most prominent charac-ters (79735). 3.00 ChibaVision 7228(1934) 5.15 Nichtscreen (2085358).

(7280938). 5.15 Nightscreen (2065358). 5.25 Coronation Street (7022025). HTV WEST
As HTV Wales except: 6.25 HTV
West Weather (631529). 6.30 The West
Tonight: All the latest news from around
the west of England (604). MERIDIAN

As Cariton except: 10.40 Firm Digby, the Biggest Dog in the World: Comic fantasy in which an Old English sheepdog grows and grows to gligantic proportions and progresses to run arnok. After the over-enthusiastic canno amok. After the over-enthissastic cannot accidentally eats a chemical meant to increase the size of vegetables, he get bigger and bigger until he is the biggest dog in the world (85951808).

12.15 Meridian News and Weather les, he gets

(3404599). **1.00** Hope and Gloria (87044). **2.35** Meridian News and Weather (6993686). **6.00** Meridian Weather (8993686). 6.00 Marican Tonight (792). 6.30 Streetwise (604). 10.50 Meridian News and Weather (160781). 2.00 Nationwide Football League Extra (79735). 3.00 ClubaVision (7280938). 5.15 Nightscreen (9650261). WESTCOUNTRY

WESTCOUNTRY
AS Cartton except: 10.40 Film;
Digby, the Biggest Dog In the World
(85951808). 12.35 Westcountry News
(3404599). 12.27 Carols for Christmas:
Bramdean School Choir from Exster sings a selection of carols (6711082). 1.00 Step in Falth (87044). 1.30 Emmerdale (29957). 2.35 Westcountry News (8993686). 6.00 Westcountry L (38605). 10.50 Westcountry News (160781). 2.00 Nationwide Football League Extra (79735). 3.00 CabaVision (7280938). 5.15 Nightscreen (2065358). 5.25 Coronation Street (7022025).

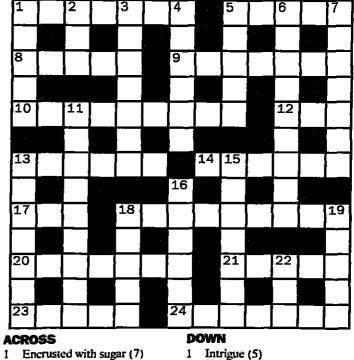
YORKSHIRE As Cariton except: 12.20 Calendar News and Weather (6703063). 1.00

Coronation Street: The Duckworths push their luck with Alec, who sees a face trom the past (87044). 2.35 Calendar News Headlines (6993686). 5.40 News; Weather (376624). 5.55 Calendar (154060). 6.30 Tonight (604). 10.50 Calendar News and Weather (160781). TYNE TEES

As Yorkshire except: 12.20 North East News and Weather (6703063).
2.35 North East News (6993686). 5.55 North East Weather (123860). 6.00 North East Tonight: Mate Neville hosts the news and magazine show for the North East and North Yorkshire (38605). 10.50 North East News (160781).

As Channel 4 except: 12.30 Right to Reply (18650745). 1.00 Planed Plant (46029334). 1.30 Garden Doctors (19000286) 2.00 Personal Services (16887334) 4.30 Planed Plant (42849228) 5.30 Countdown (11263402) 6.00 Newyddion (19864265). **6.10** Heno (80594421). opri (1986-255), sau mero (309-421). 7,00 Carolau o Llangollen (21660605). 8,00 Pwy di Pwy (16667570). 8,30 News (16866605). 9,00 Chwedkau Caergaint (49702686). 9,30 Sgorfo (5776/59). 10,35 Friends: Rachel and Ross have their first date - doing the laundry (14562808). **11.05** Frasier (66704889). **11.35** The Outsiders with Nick Hancock (74800773). **12.35** The Truth about Art (48025735). **1.35** Joe Pub-lic (60787939). **2.05** Close.

## **CONCISE CROSSWORD**



Encrusted with sugar (7)

Detests (5) Emblem (5) Nooses (7)

12 Billiards implement (3) Beetle (6) Meal (6) 17 Seedcase (3)

10 At all events (9)

18 White blood cell (9) 20 Base (7) Make speeches (5) 23 Military decoration (5) 24 Stabbing weapon (7)

Sign of assent (3) Passive quality (7) Flower (6) Divide by two (5) Government by religious leaders (9)

Think probable (7) 11 Deserted (9) 13 Plausible but invalid argument (7)

15 Study of the environment (7) 16 Magnificent (6) 18 Defame in print (5) 19 Throw out (5)

22 Girl's name (3) Solution to last Saturday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Shiny, 4 Slacker (Chinese lacquer), 8 Decorum, 9 Dryat, 10 Turin, 11 Lattice, 13 Twee, 15 Splash, 17 Origin, 20 Acne, 22 Granite, 24 Antic, 26 Amass, 27 Enthral, 28 Prevent, 29 Rhyme, DOWN: 1 Sedates, 2 Incur, 3 Y-Ironts, 4 Sample, 5 Audit, Keyring, 7 Ridge, 12 Acon, 14 What, 16 Leakage, 18 Reactor, 19 Nacelle, 21 Cement, 22 Grasp,

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# MATTHEW SWEET

ome to think of it, it's nice to be an ITV drama that doesn't ave Robson Green in it. This chig commercial television, it ent for the whoop-de-do end I the fiction section, and I the fiction section. Gerald as a lag-toloring,
'd-toling heroine with the
d name of Ledy Dona St
mb. And it had Anthony
n (Alain's son) as a French
iteer with all the period
m of a Chippendale, circa
(the stripping, rather than
phoistered kind).

husband (Jannes Fleet) was something of an absentee drunk and her children were perfectly horrid. (This being a time of religious turmoil, little Hettie and little Charles were rather taken with tying up the family dog and attempting to exorcise its evil demons.) And they needed to be beastly, because the plot demanded that her ladyship abandon her maternal responsibilities for a big-shirted Gallic sauceboat named Authrey (Delon), who'd just moored up her creek.

I suspect it was their mutual interest in long, curly, Michael Boltonish hair that brought the two of them together. And it didn't take them long to get serious. After their first date—a spot of violent filmtlock action on the local quayside—he brought her breakfast in bed, copping into her cabin and leeding her soldiers (the eggy not the military, kind).

Before you could say stab ne vitals, we were plunged into a windon housewife. La sif you were walking around naide the sexual fantasies of a windon housewife. In a flouncy off-he-shoulder number, having or neck eaten. Then Delon as up in the rigging, the

TELEVISION REVIEW

naked from the was emerging naked from the was emerging naked from the was emerging naked from the was waiting with a big blue-towel. It was the nearest television has come to embodying that tacky cod-historical aesthetic that you get on the covers of Harlequin period romances. I must admit I was rether taken with it. And I was even more delighted by FitzGerald's full-blooded participation in the swashbuckling sequences. Especially the scene in which Lady Dona got to kebab the villain with his own cullass. Football doesn't usually breed understanding between people of different nations. More often, it encourages them to run through shopping centres trying to kick each other's teeth in. So it was genuinely affecting to see the sport working as a form of gentle diplomacy in The Outsiders (C4), a docurnentary which saw cornedians Nick Hancock and Andy Smart spending time with the Iranian national team during its recent bid for World Cup victory.

What made Tony Davies' film such a fine piece of television was the contrast he drew between han's mad mullah-ish image and the sweet-natured relationships Hancock and Smart formed with the Tehran 11. The two Brits went under the Iron Yashmak and discovered that the people were – guess what? – just like us. They were more likely to eat hot dogs and chips than ewe's eyeballs, and they also chanted vaguely obscene things from the terraces ("Stick the tap of a samovar up the referee's arse", if you could believe the subtitles).

From the vox-non interviews

believe the subtities).

From the vox-pop interviews that Smart conducted on the streets of Tehran, it was also clear that the locals fancied their celebrity players. And well they might. The Iranian team was dignified, smart, unassuming, sensitive and dedicated. They made our lot look like a bunch of boors, drunks, bimbos and big-gin's blouses. Can you imagine David Beckham holding a conversation in Farsi? Usually, I can't abide football, and wouldn't know one end of Billy Brenmer from another: But this moving, modest little film communicated the game's emotional pull with unpretentious eloquence, and used it as a means to break down a few lazily xenophobic or celudiess about the Arah

BBC1

Business Breakfast (95315). 7.00 News (T) (99889).
9.00 Sweet Valley High (R) (S) (7847044).9.28
Children's BBC: The Fame Game (R) (S) (7840131).
9.85 Teletubbles (S) (9004131). 10.20 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (8405641). 10.30 Pall Man American Tall: Flevel Goes West (Phil Nibbelink, Simon Wells 1991 US). Carboon sequel with volceovers from John Cleese and James Stewart (S) (T) (1826976).
11.40 The New Adventures of Superman (R) (S) (T) (772518). 12.25 Wilpsout (S) (T) (9020841). 12.80 The Weather Show (S) (T) (73895063). 1.00 News; Weather (T) (82976). 1.30 Regional News and Weather (A5109537). 1.40 Neighbours (S) (T) (97108624). 2.05 Battersea Dogs' Home (S) (T) (86003179). 2.35 Due South (S) (T) (2812860). 3.20 Children's BBC: Noddy (R) (S) (8735063). 3.30 Enchanted Lands – the Magic of the Faraway Tree (S) (3883044). 3.40 Casper (R) (S) (T) (3289682). 4.00 Bodger and Badger (S) (T) (6866622). 4.40 Goosebumps (S) (T) (2505247). 5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (7000000).

5.35 Neighbours (S) (T) (184570).

6.00 News; Weather (T) (624).

6,30

10

This is Your Life. Do you recognise this voice? Yes, you used to bully him at school etc (S) (T) (1570).

Here and Now. Breaking more new ground with reports on modern-day Fagins and Chris Chol looking at the excesses of office partles (S) (T) (880).

EastEnclers. Gianni may at least be able to stop looking like Merion Brando on a wet day trip to Southend as the truth about his paternity is revealed. Or maybe not. Meanwhile, Ricky and Teresa find out the pitfalls of not taking their horticulture seriously enough (S) (T) (9686).

News; Regional News; Weather (1) (3537).

The Ciampers at Christmas. Ray, Sandy and Mike set out to show drivers the true meaning of Christmas. Bah, humbug (5) (T) (48082).

00.00 Pierce Brosnan limbers up to take over as 007 in this dreary techno-thriller based on an Aljstair MacLean story. United Nations troubleshooters uncover a hi-tech fraud which, of course, threatens world security. For "world", of course, read "our side"; there are no alien invaders here (S) (T) (800421).

11.35 They Think It's All Over. Julian Clary making football jokes. Hmmm. interesting (S) (T) (813570).

Gene Hackman is convinced that his missing son is holed up in a forgotten PoW camp in Laos. So he enlists a team of old buddies to do what the UN has falled to do so far. Predictable fare from a star who has done so much better (1) (684803). 12,50

Joins BBC News 24 (45029613). To 6am.

ANIMATION OF THE DAY

THE CANTERBURY TALES (7.30pm BBC2, right)
Programme-makers love Chaucer; because he gives them a chance to include sex and scatology before the watershed. These animated films, adapted by Jonathan Myerson, are the product of a collaboration between BBC Wales, S4C and HBO – something unusual in itself – and feature the voices of Bob Peck, Sean Bean, Imelda Staunton, Robert Lindsay and Billie Whitelaw, telling the Nun's Priest's, Knight's and Wife of Bath's tales in modern-day English. The Merchant, Pardoner and Franklin follow tomorrow. Eng Lit anoraks can see the same thing in Middle English at noon tomorrow.

DOCUMENTARY OF TH

INDERCOVER BRITAIN: DRINK DRIVERS

night) The regularity of governmental drink-drive
is in danger of inducing compassion fatigue in the
populace, but this little film, showing Britain's drin all their complacency, should jolt the odd perse
thinking about their actions. Stella Hanoumi, whe
drink-driving crash which killed her mother, goes
to find out just who the culprits are and why they
surprising essay in human egoism with some all
moments — not least the accountant who has ally
hospitalised in a crash but carries on boozing re-

# DAY

R\$ (730pm C4, rive campaigns a the general sidrink-drivers erson into who survived a pes undercover hey do it. A alarming already been regardless.

O Children's 89C: Wiggly Park (R) (S) (6078889). 7.05
Teletubbles (S) (5062131). 7.30 Yogl's Treasure Hunt (R) (S) (1914518). 7.50 Blue Peter (S) (T) (8970131). 8.20
Eek the Cat (R) (S) (3149082). 8.35 Taz-Manie (8363792). 9.00 Animal Winter Warmers (S) (2342266). 12.30 The Simpsons (S) (T) (4528247). 1.40 Timewatch (R) (S) (T) (8160773).

The West. Interesting-locking new series attempting to give a mythless history of the early American pioneers (5) (T) (2342605). 3.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (9904957).

4.00 IIII The Horse Soldiers (John Ford 1959 US).
This film was unpopular at the time among the director's fan-base, but it is gradually rehabilitating itself. John Wayne stars as a Civil War Yankee colonel sent behind Confederate lines to disrupt supply operations. Love, however, inhibits the smooth running of the plan. Costars a fading William Holden (T) (97118537).

5.55 Magic Meteorology (S) (T) (136334).

7.30

8.30 University Challenge. Jeremy Paxman hectors Magdalen College, Oxford and Leicester (S) (T) (7995).

9.50 Funny Women. A profile of Stephanie Cole, whose role in Weiting for God belies the rest of her far more impressive career (S) (T) (989889).

Newsnight. With Gordon Brewer (T) (614841). A Woman Called Smith. Jenny Smith, vicar of Kelbrook, Lancashire (R) (S) (T) (865082).

10,30

10.20

116 Storyville - Moon over Broadway. Diverting film about comedy actress Carol Burnetts attempt at a Broadway comeback (S) (T) (306228).

**Throne of Blood** (Akira Kurosawa 1957 Jap). Kurosawa, as always, produces visual treats, but little emotional insight. Not necessarily a drawback, except that this is an adaptation of *Macbeth* (731445). To 240am.

# BBC2

**6.00 The Simpsons.** Mayor Quimby's nephew is charged with assault. Bart is the only witness (S) (T) (413995).

**6.35 Silders.** The world where tyrannosaurus rex is king (S) (T) (750889). 6.25 Rex the Runt. Rather charming Plasticine animation.
Well, compared with Bob and Margaret (S) (T) (738841).

7.15 Rex the Runt. More animation (S) (T) (692860).

**DIDIES** The Canterbury Tales. Cartoon Chaucer. See *Animation of the Day*, below (S) (T) (402)

Top Gear - Blood, Saft and Tears. Tiff Needell follows the history of a century of the land-speed record, first recorded at 40mph in 1887 and, now standing at 763mph and rising (S) (T) (8860).

9,00

9.00 Waiting for God. Festive Old People's Home repeat that didn't really justify the licence-fee the first time around (R) (S) (T) (137421).

10.50

ockerble. Relatives of those killed in the Lockerble isester talk about the tragedy (T) (97421).

James Belushi is given a lesson in wisdom: It's A Not Very Wonderful Life (S) (T) (55358). 2.00 Nationwide Football League Extra (7198700). 3.05 Club@Vision (S) (9872803). 3.45 [3][M] The Capture (John Sturges 1950 US). Western (798938). 5.15 Soundtrax (S) (1222483). 5.30 Box Office America (9842396). 5.55 ITN Morning News (9502445). To 6am.

# Carlton

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**GMTV** (1021421), **9.25** (TN News Headlines (T) (4362402).

(F) (S)

Standard Christmas fare in which bored church mouse Loretta Young (who wouldn't be, married to David Niven't) receives help from angel Cary Grant. Capracorn without the Capra (T) (85792).

ondon Tonight (T) (792).

Hollyoaks. Another set of soapsters mistake the date and throw a Christmas lunch (T) (686).

6.30 Family Affairs. Pete and Claire celebrate as they realise that Jack has left them everything in his wil. (5) (1) (2381773).

7.00 5 News, including First on Five, With Kirsty Young (S) (T) (1436570).

Coronation Street. Also shoos the Duckworths off to Blackpool, much to their surprise. And where are Nick and Leanne going for Christmas? (T) (228).

The Bill. Daly and Rawton pose as pub barmen to try to infiltrate a protection racket (T) (7082).

Clive James on TV. Clive James employs the comic skill of Greg Proops to snigger about the world of TV scl-fl (S) (565841).

ITN News; Weather (T) (767082). London Tonight (T) (160781).

**Children's ITV:** Tiny Toon Adventures (R) (S) (T) (1947995). **10.00** Rocky and the Dodos (R) (S) (3331686). **10.15** Art Attack Christmas Cracker (R) (T) (7232773).

DO Sesame Street (11353). 7.00 Ovide (86315). 7.30

The Magic School Bus (R) (S) (88150). 8.00 The Big Breakfast (S) (T) (77179). 10.00 Bigger Breakfast: Saved by the Bell (S) (T) (70266). 10.30 Bigger Breakfast: Eeris, Indiana (S) (T) (8995808). 10.55

Bigger Breakfast: The Secret World of Alex Mack (R) (S) (4247150). 11.30 Bigger Breakfast: Moesha (S) (T) (7112).

House (R) (6956179). 7.30 Milkshakel (S) (2595179). 7.35 House (R) (6956179). 7.30 Milkshakel (S) (2595179). 7.35 Havakazoo (R) (S) (6150082). 8.00 George of the Jungle (R) (7561334). 8.30 What-a-Mess (7560605). 9.00 Loggerheads (R) (7551957). 9.30 USA High (R) (S) (218315). 10.00 The Gods of Olympus (9036792). 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (8748583). 11.10 Leza (R) (S) (6437063). 12.00 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (7564421). 12.30 Family Affairs (S) (T) (2185131). 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (6948150). 1.30 Sons and Daughters (2184402). 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (1465082). 2.30 Good Affarmoon (S) (2139957).

Digby, the Biggest Dog in the World h McGrath 1973 UK). Lame British precursor to wen in which an Old English sheepdog eats an inential diet enhancer and grows to gigantic thems. With Jim Dale and Spike Milligan (T)

Your Shout (6703063), 12.30 News; Weather (T) (20686), 1.00 London Today (T) (87044), 1.30 Cross Wits (S) (T) (29957), 2.00 Wheel of Fortune (S) (T) (5150), 2.30 ITN News Headlines (T) (6994315), 2.35 London Today (T) (6993686), 2.40 Sharps (R) (S) (T) (79648518), 4.40 Survival Special (S) (T) (5423841).

**/s; Weather** (T) (614632).

5.30 Pet Rescue Awards. (S) (T) (421).

Frances Bissell's Westcountry Christmes (R) (S) (T) (605). 3.00 Wine Hunt (T) (9599). 3.30 Tool Stories (T) (150). 4.00 Fifteen to One Highlights (T) (957). 4.30 Countdown (T) (9548860). 4.55 Montel Williams (S) (T) (7874315).

Roseanne. Dan comes home for Christmas (R) (S) (T) (334).

6.00 100 Per Cent (S) (2390421).

7

5.20 The Roseanne Show. "Entertaining and informative" talk show. Informative in the "not everyone can do chat" field, certainly (906:1976).

Listing sabycakes (Paul Schneider 1989 US). Ricki Lake does a good job released from John Waters' freakshow hell, though the emphasis in this film is still very much on her weight in this remake of the German Sugarbaby. A lonely mortuary worker and her attempts to seduce a train driver. Pretty good. (S) (T) (7587044).

**London Bridge.** The residents of SE1 seem to be under the impression that today is Christmas Day. Well, they don't get out much in Docklands (S) (604).

7.30

8.00 Floyd Uncorked. Keith Floyd gets a kick from champagne (S) (T) (1452518).

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7.30 Wild at Home. How the ancient tradition of swan-upping led to the discovery of an epidemic of poisoning from fisherments lead weights (S) (T) (2387957).

10.30 [NIII][E] Don Juan DeMarco (Jeremy Leven 1995 US). Sters Johnny Depp. See Film of the Day, Below [T] (27983402).

2.50 IEIM Women in the Window (Fritz Lang 1845 US). Edward G Robinson in blackmall melodrama (T) IIIM Arizona Dream (Emir Kusturica 1993 US). Johnny Depp develops an obsession with an older woman. A comedy, apparently (1) (35672174).

The Real World (R) (13099613). 5.05 Sharky and George (R) (7929984). 5.35 2 Stupid Dogs (R) (S) (9103880). 5.55 Sesame Street (9002261). To 7am.

7.00

Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (4808)

**IDIO(P3** Undercover Britain - Drink Drivers. Who they are, why they do it. See Documentary of the Day, below (570).

8.00 The Iceberg Cometh. Documentary chronicing man's relationship with icebergs. Includes footage of attempts to destroy them with bombs, guns and even black paint, through to the first oil platform designed to stay upright when it comes into contact with one. That James Cameron has a lot to answer for

Brookside Christmas Special. It's all go down the close, and the rape theme warms up. Everyone wakes up to the morning-after party chaos, and Nikki can't remember a thing about what's happened to her. Ignorance could well be bilss (S) (T) (7976).

9.00 Lonesome Dove. More from the star-studded maxiseries set on the American frontier. Gus tries to comfort a devastated Lorena. The cattle drive hits a parched area and has to travel almost 100 miles before reaching

Weather Front. Asks whether we will we have a white Christmas (S) (T) (1464353).

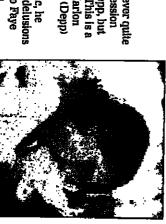
10.50 ITHE Lap Dancer (1985). "Erotic" drama. A woman takes to jiggling when she gat into debt, but finds that the world is a lot easier to shed than the overdraft. Makes the work of Paul Verhoeven look like serious sociology (89578976).

TELEVISION GUIDE BY SERENA MACKESY

Remote Control

# FILM OF THE DAY

understood America's alternative film-makers' obsession with the limited (but well-cut) charms of Johnny Depp, but he has been given parts in some memorable films. This is a quite delightful little fable in which ageing shrink Marion Brando finds himself treating an attempted suicide (Depp) who claims to be the world's greatest lover. Initially regarding him as just another loon in need of Prozac, he gradually finds himself drawn into Depp's romantic delusions and, through them, reassessing his own marriage to Faye Dunaway. Rather worthy, but a romping good watch.



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